

SPEECH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES

What's Typical Talk at Secondary?

This section gives information to teachers about language and communication development in secondary pupils. It may help teachers identify those pupils who have an underlying speech, language and communication needs.

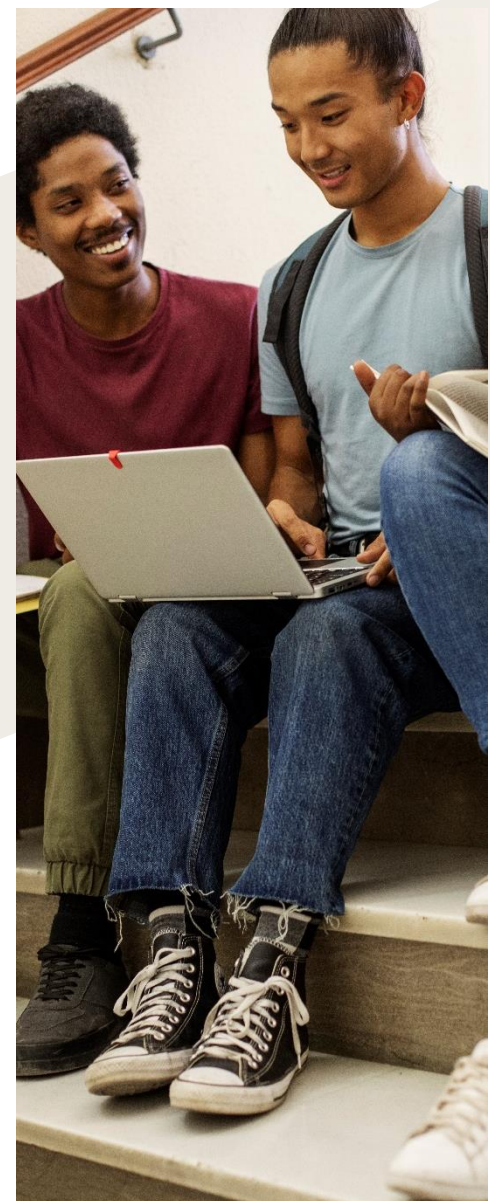
By 18 Years

Pupils may fail to develop age-appropriate language skills for a range of reasons including:

- They may have general learning difficulties
- They may have had less support at home to develop their language and communication skills fully
- They may have a specific difficulty with language which is out of step with their potential to learn
- Children with English as an additional language are at the same risk of speech, language and communication needs as any other child, however, this can be more difficult to spot.

Understanding and reasoning

- No difficulty following complex directions
- Knows when and why they don't understand, asks for help in a specific way:
Can you explain that to me again? I got the beginning but I don't understand the last step.
- More skilled in using a range of arguments to persuade others
- Reads and understands a wide variety of topics
- Fully understands sarcasm and is able to use it well.
I'm so happy to see you.



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Vocabulary

- Knows what these instruction words are asking them to do:
Evaluate • Find themes • Compile
- Uses a good range of descriptive words and expressions:
Swaggered • Noxious • Meandered

Sentence structure and narration

- Is able to use difficult joining words to make complex sentences:
Providing that • Similarly
- Can tell long and complex narratives ensuring the listener understands the thread of the story throughout
- Average length of spoken sentences
= 9 to 13+ words

Social Interaction

- Able to stay on one topic of conversation for long periods and move sensibly from one topic to another
- Able to switch easily between informal and formal styles of talking depending on the audience:
*Off to college now for an interview. Seeing my mates later...
Better watch my mouth with Sam's mum – was a bit rude last time.*

