

The Whartons Primary School

A Quick Guide to Speech, Language and Communication Needs

What are Speech, Language, and Communication needs?

The pupil may have difficulties with expressive language, understanding, speech or the social and functional use of language.

Implications for a pupil

The pupil may struggle with:

- most aspects of literacy
- attending to teacher-talk
- concentration
- retention because of not understanding the language
- beginning a task
- learning
- remembering and using new language
- a lot of instructions given at once, or coming up with an answer quickly
- composition
- remembering and writing down a sentence
- making friends
- social skills such as eye contact or turn taking.
- The pupil may be vulnerable to bullying
- present as a behaviour challenge or be quiet and/ or timid.

How to help – top tips

1. Reduce teacher talk.
2. Talk slowly – but with normal intonation/ emphasis

3. An environment that has plenty of visual structure/ prompts. (For example, visual timetables, key words etc.)
4. Pre teach new words, give opportunity to overlearn.
5. Increase 'modelling' of expectations.
6. Limit distracting noise in the classroom.
7. Check understanding by saying the pupil name and asking what they need to do 'first'.
8. Break tasks into smaller chunks so that they can be completed in shorter periods of time.
9. Offer a handout with instructions to complete a task that they can refer to, should they forget what they are doing.
10. Teach strategies to support organisation e.g. making lists, sequencing events, drawing up timetables.
11. Write/ draw personalised prompts of what the pupil needs to do.
12. Increase writing scaffolds and frames to support language development.
13. Support in making choices – offer forced alternatives "red or blue?"
14. Increase 'take up' time.

Further advice and support

Useful Websites:

Leeds Speech and Language Toolkit:
<https://www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services-a-z/speech-and-language-therapy2/speech-and-language-therapy-toolkit/>

Talking point

<https://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/>

Reading:

Vocabulary teaching resources on LfL
Black Sheep
Speech mark
Talk Boost
Colourful Semantics