



Speech and Language Screening in your Child's School

A Guide for Parents



What is Speech and Language Screening?



A Speech and Language Screening assessment is a test which helps the school to identify if your child has any Speech Language and Communication Needs.

The **Language Link Assessment** looks at your child's understanding of spoken words and ideas.

The **Speech Link Assessment** looks at the sounds your child is making and how they use these in words.

Why does my child need a screening assessment?



Speech and language skills are fundamental to our wellbeing and success in life. We use these skills constantly to communicate our wants and needs and to build strong bonds with other people. Language skills are also important for our learning. In schools and at home, we learn new skills and gain new knowledge by listening to others talking and reading written language. The demands on language skills only increase as children get older and progress through their education.

Problems understanding language can be very difficult to spot by observation alone. Children can be good at copying their peers and using clues to hide a lack of understanding. A difficulty with understanding which is not picked up can lead to problems with spoken language, literacy and behaviour. Screening all children with the **Language Link Assessment** will help your child's school to make sure they have the right support in place for every child to make progress.

If you, or the school have noticed that your child is having some difficulties producing sounds and speaking clearly, they may also complete a **Speech Link Assessment**.

What will happen?



A member of school staff who is trained in completing the assessments will sit with your child. The assessments are picture based and children often enjoy completing them. They take around 30 minutes to complete.

Will I find out the results?



The school may approach you to share the results. Alternatively, you can ask a member of the school staff for the results of the assessment, by requesting they complete the form at the back of this booklet.

What happens if the screening assessment indicates my child has Speech, Language and Communication Needs?



If the screening assessment identifies that your child has some difficulties with speech or language, the school staff will discuss what everyone can do to help your child to make progress.

They might suggest including your child in a language group or a specific intervention for extra support in school.

They may also suggest a referral to another agency (e.g. Speech and Language Therapy) to look in more depth at the difficulties indicated.

What can I do to help at home?



A vast amount of language learning happens at home and your input can make a big difference.

Information and free resources are available for you on Speech Link's Parent Portal. Visit www.speechandlanguage.info/parents for more information on how speech and language develop and for specific printable activities and resources to try at home.



If you have any queries about the screening assessment or results, please speak to a member of your school's Teaching or Wellbeing Team.

Speech and Language Screening Assessment Results

Name of child:

Date of assessment: ___/___/___

Your child completed the following screening assessments:

- Infant Language Link
- Junior Language Link
- Speech Link

The results were:

- All areas age appropriate. No further support is needed.
- Some areas of need were identified, and the school will talk to you about their plans to support your child further.

Any additional comments:
