

What can hidden speech and language needs look like in school?



Classroom disruption



Disengaged pupils



Anxiety or low self-esteem

Three strategies to build pupils' communication skills



1 CREATE COMMUNICATION-FRIENDLY CLASSROOMS

Narrate everything you are doing.

It's like adding subtitles to the school day for children with communication gaps and strengthens all pupils' oral language at the same time. Here are some simple examples:

- 'Let's take the register now'
- 'I'm handing out pens for the class quiz'
- 'We can put the PE equipment away in here'



2 MODEL LANGUAGE

Avoid drawing attention to mistakes children make when speaking.

Instead, repeat the correct language back in conversation. This reinforces the correct use of the vocabulary and they'll be more likely to continue chatting.

Child: 'I 'runned and felled'

Teacher: 'I can imagine it hurt when you ran and fell. What happened next?'



3 BUILD LANGUAGE IN LESSONS

Visualise language to help pupils understand complex concepts such as inference.

Ask your pupils to comic strip a written conversation, with speech bubbles for the words they think were spoken and a thought bubble for what was inferred. It's a simple way to help children better understand inference.

See this example which is a visual representation of an extract from Roald Dahl's book Matilda – when her teacher asked Matilda's age, she inferred she has advanced reading skills.



Identify children with speech and language gaps in 15 minutes and find 150 interventions to support them straight away with the WellComm Toolkit.

Visit www.gl-assessment.co.uk/go/wellcomm-digital-primary