

What is Talk Boost 2?

Talk Boost 2 (Key stage 2) is a targeted and evidenced based intervention developed by the ICAN charity organisation, which supports children with delayed language in Primary 5-7 (2) to make significant progress with their language and communication skills and help them catch up with their peers



Why Talk Boost 2?

Delayed language can significantly impact on children's attainment. Many children with delayed language have the potential to catch up, especially if they receive timely intervention.

Talk Boost 2 is a structured and robustly evidenced programme for 7-10 year olds that can boost a child's speech, language and communication (SLC) to help them catch up with their peers.

How can Talk Boost 2 help schools raise achievement at Second Level?

- Identifies vulnerable learners
- Provides a structured evidence based programme

that accelerates children's progress in language and communication

- Increases classroom participation by improving confidence and skills in listening, vocabulary, narrative, sentence building and conversation

What does the intervention look like?

- Teachers identify children with delayed language using the tracker
- Selected children attend Talk Boost sessions in groups of around 4
- The 30 minute sessions are run 3 times per week for 8 weeks plus one mandatory class activity each week in the classroom for the whole class
- All the activities within the 3 previous sessions are part of the whole class session giving the children an added boost of confidence
- Homework activity linked to some weekly tasks

Who is Talk Boost 2 for?

This is an intervention for children whose language and communication skills are developing typically but are below what is expected for their age.

They may have:

- Difficulties listening or paying attention
- Poor vocabulary
- Difficulties in understanding language
- Immature sentences
- Difficulties explaining or describing events, information and instructions
- Difficulties socialising/interacting with their peers

Talk Boost 2 breaks language and communication into five component parts:

- **Listening Carefully**
 - **Vocabulary (learning new words)**
 - **Telling stories and saying what happens**
 - **Remembering and Thinking**
 - **Working with others and having conversations**
- The 8-week programme incorporates all 5 components into each session, providing the children with a variety of tasks and activities centred around communication
 - EAST teachers and school Classroom Assistants lead the sessions and model the appropriate behaviours.
 - Children are encouraged to be active listeners, expect what they hear to make sense and have the skills and confidence to feed back to staff when they haven't understood.
 - Staff have an open mind to being questioned about what the child said and actively encourage the children to monitor what they've heard and understood

What are the other positive outcomes of Talk Boost 2?

- **builds the quality of teaching** by providing teachers and classroom assistants with practical activities that children enjoy. Many of the strategies used in the whole class activities can

be adapted and used to develop quality first teaching

- can **improve behaviour** for learning by developing children's attention and listening skills and confidence in communicating
- aids **leadership and management** with its online Tracker. This helps schools identify and measure children who need additional support and informs target setting
- **All school staff have responsibility** for helping to develop all children's language skills through careful scaffolding and modelling language, taking a genuine interest in what children are saying and making time to listen.

Resources available on the EAST GLOW Tile:

- Early Level Literacy PowerPoint 'Conversation Starters'
- First Level Literacy PowerPoint 'Conversation Starters'
- Listening and Talking Activity Pack (class)
- Listening and Talking Activity Pack (home)
- Listening and Talking homework ideas grid

Getting started:

- Raise your initial concerns with the school ASN Co-ordinator
- Complete a Request for Assistance (RfA) and send to the email address below
- EAST staff will then make contact and arrange a

meeting to discuss training needs for staff and the pupils causing concerns

- Training is normally delivered within one session of approx. 3 hours with bespoke arrangements agreed for the most appropriate means of delivery
- Once training is complete, EAST staff and school staff will collaborate to assess the identified pupils and make selections based on the evidence from the assessment
- EAST staff and school staff then create a timetable of roles and responsibilities for each of the 4 sessions per week over the 8 week period

For further information please contact:

Dawn McMahon
Principal Teacher
East Ayrshire Support Team
Crosshouse Campus
Playingfield Road
Crosshouse
KA2 0JJ
Tel: 01563 554974
Email: eaeast@eastayrshire.org.uk



EAST AYRSHIRE SUPPORT TEAM

Intervention Leaflet

Talk Boost 2 (P4-7) Language and Communication Support

Talk Boost 2 narrows the gap for pupils at Second Level with delayed language and their peers.

Information for Staff