

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

What happens in a typical Talk Boost session?

Each activity starts with a learning objective to make the purpose of the activity clear.

There are 3 30 min sessions with either a Classroom Assistant or Teacher with the targeted group.

There will then be whole class activities to enable all children in the class to benefit from the evidence

informed language supportive strategies and approaches which will assist in their learning and progression.

There may be a follow-up homework activity linked to the session.

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.

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
- 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

Comments from teachers who have used Talk Boost in their classrooms

"Learning in the classroom was easier; children joined in more, took part in discussions more and listened more carefully".

'This intervention enabled all of the children to make progress with their communication skills. It has particularly improved their ability to work in groups. The children have loved having this support ".

Activities that promote conversation and vocabulary at home

Explore words – talk about new words when your child comes across one, like when they're reading a book or watching a TV programme. If you have a dictionary at home, you could look up the meaning of the word in the dictionary together, or even Google it!

Try taking photos of an activity on your phone while you are doing it, and looking back at the pictures together afterwards and talking about what you did together

For further information please contact:

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EAST AYRSHIRE SUPPORT TEAM

Information 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.

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