

What is Talk Boost 1?

Talk Boost 1 (Key stage 1) is a targeted and evidenced based intervention developed by the ICAN charity organisation, which supports children with gaps in language skills in Primary 1 and 2 to make significant progress with their language and communication skills.



Why Talk Boost 1?

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

Talk Boost 1 is a structured and robustly evidenced programme for 4-7 year olds that can boost a child's communication by an average of 9 to 18 months after 10 weeks of intervention. In East Ayrshire we utilise this intervention at early level to the end of first level approximately.

How can Talk Boost 1 help schools raise achievement at Early/ First level?

- Identifies vulnerable learners
- Provides a structured evidence based programme that accelerates children's progress in language and communication
- Supports the foundation language skills that lead to phonics
- 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 gaps in language skills using the Progression Tool
- Selected children attend Talk Boost sessions in groups of around 4
- The 30-40 minute sessions are run 3 times per week for 10 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

What happens in a typical Talk Boost 1 session?

At the beginning of each session, everyone reviews the **Good Listening Rules** :

- **Good sitting**
- **Good looking**
- **Good thinking**

*Talk Boost 1 breaks language and communication into **five** component parts:*

- **Attention and listening**
- **Vocabulary**
- **Building sentences**
- **Telling stories**
- **Conversations**

- The 10-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 pupil support assistants lead the sessions and model the appropriate word choice and sentence construction followed by the children attempting to copy and imitate this structure
- Rewards such as stickers and certificates are given to the children motivate and demonstrate progress and achievement

What are the other positive outcomes of Talk Boost 1?

- **builds the quality of teaching** by providing teachers and pupil support assistants with practical activities that children enjoy
- 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



For further information please contact:

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EAST AYRSHIRE SUPPORT TEAM

Intervention Leaflet

Talk Boost 1 (P1-3)

Language and Communication Support

Talk Boost 1 narrows the gap for pupils at Early/First Level with gaps in language and communication skills.

**Information for
Staff**

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