

What is Talk Boost?

Talk Boost 1 is a targeted and evidenced based intervention which supports children with gaps in language skills to make significant progress with their language and communication skills.



Why Talk Boost?

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.

Talk Boost 1 can help schools raise Early/First level achievement by:

- Identifying vulnerable learners
- Providing a structured evidence based programme that accelerates children's progress in language and communication
- Supporting the foundation language skills that lead to phonics
- Increasing 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 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 session?

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

- Good sitting
- Good looking
- Good thinking

Talk Boost 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
- Adults lead each session and model the correct body language, word choice and sentence structure before encouraging all children to try for themselves
- Certificates are given to the children to motivate and demonstrate progress and achievement

What are the other positive outcomes of Talk Boost?

- **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

EAST AYRSHIRE SUPPORT TEAM

Information Leaflet

Talk Boost

**Language and
Communication
Support
(Early/First Level)**

**Information for
Parents/Carers**

Updated November 2024

For further information please contact:

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Examples of things you can do at home:

- Set time aside to talk
- Speak in a silly voice, have fun and be relaxed
- Use comments, not questions
- Talk about your day/photos/activities
- Talk about things your child/you are interested in
- Explore words - talk about words your child has come across in a story
- Model conversation

Activities that promote conversation:

- Nursery Rhymes - change some of the words and enjoy being silly together!
- Guess Who? game
- Odd one out
- A picture tells a thousand words
- I spy

