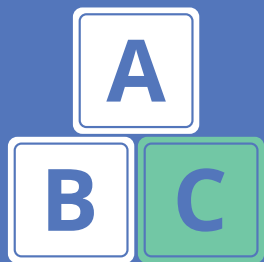


Communication skills: What's the problem?



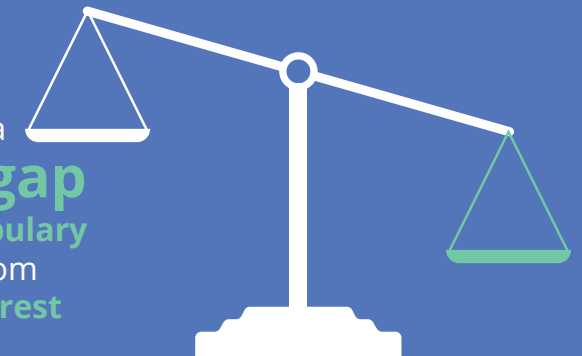
1 in 4 children and young people in **Scotland** have a predicted **speech**,¹ **language** and **communication** need.

Public Health Scotland reported a **significant increase** in communication needs following the **pandemic**.²

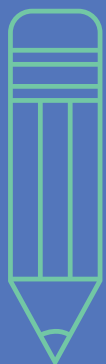


89% of staff surveyed in **nurseries** reported an **increase** in the numbers and **complexity** of children with **communication needs**.³

By **age 5** there is a **13 month gap** in **expressive vocabulary** between children from the **richest** and **poorest** backgrounds.⁴



Communication: Why does it matter?



LEARNING

Early spoken language emerges as the **most important factor** influencing **literacy levels at age eleven.**¹



BEHAVIOUR

Studies consistently observe **higher levels of behaviour challenges** amongst people identified with **communication needs.**²

EMPLOYMENT



88% of long term unemployed young men

were found to have a speech, language or communication need.³



WELLBEING

Children with **vocabulary difficulties** at **age five** are **three times** as likely to have **mental health problems** when they reach **adulthood**⁴



JUSTICE

60% of people in contact with the **law** were found to have a **speech, language** or **communication difficulty.**⁵



HUMAN RIGHTS

Children's communication rights are specifically enshrined within Article 12 and 13 of the UNCRC, and has been **enshrined in Scots law.**⁶

Sources

1. Moss, G and Washbrook, E (2016) The Gender Gap in Language and literacy Development. Bristol: Uni of Bristol
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3. Elliott N (2011). <https://pure.southwales.ac.uk/en/studentTheses/an-investigation-into-the-communication-skills-of-unemployed-youn>

4. Botting, N., Toseeb, U., Pickles, A., Durkin, K., & Conti-Ramsden, G. Depression and anxiety change from adolescence to adulthood in individuals with and without language impairment. PloS one, 11(7), e0156678. Centre for Mental Health (2018)
5. Bryan, K., Freer, J. and Furlong, C. (2007), Language and Communication Difficulties in Juvenile Offenders. International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders, 42 (5), 505-520.
6. Convention on the Rights of the Child, Nov. 20, 1989, 1577 U.N.T.S. 3.