



SpeechWise

# Understanding Speech, Language, and Communication Needs

## 5-7 Years

The demands on your child's talking steadily increase as they progress through primary school, because of this you might start to notice that your child is struggling more with their talking than they have before. Talk to your child's teacher. You might also want to get advice from one of our expert therapists in our virtual consultation clinic.



| What to expect                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Signs to watch for                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | How you can help                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can focus their attention for longer without needing to be prompted</li> <li>• Understand and remember a story they heard days ago</li> <li>• Understand longer instructions</li> <li>• Understand feelings and describing words</li> <li>• Have conversations with adults and children for different reasons, like problem solving, telling a joke or sharing an idea</li> <li>• Speak clearly so that familiar and unfamiliar people to the child can understand them</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has difficulty learning and understanding new words</li> <li>• Has difficulty understanding conversation about the past and future</li> <li>• Can follow part of an instruction but not the whole instruction</li> <li>• Produces short, broken sentences</li> <li>• Presents with difficulty learning at school</li> <li>• Has difficulty making and maintaining friendships</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Break down your instructions into smaller, bite-sized chunks</li> <li>• Give your child time to process and respond to you</li> <li>• Focus on key vocabulary by saying words clearly, showing what it means (through picture) and using it in a sentences</li> <li>• Encourage social communication by modelling key phrases like, 'That's my favourite too' or 'Can I play?'</li> </ul> |

Find out more at: [www.speechandlanguage.org.uk](http://www.speechandlanguage.org.uk)

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SpeechWise Therapy



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