



SpeechWise

Understanding Speech, Language, and Communication Needs

14-17 Years

The pressure of GCSEs and thinking about what next often highlights difficulties with young person's talking and communication. Seeking help as soon as your concerned will make sure that the right supports are put in place. Contact us if you'd like advice from one of our therapists with expertise in working with teenagers.



What to expect	Signs to watch for	How you can help
• Can understand and follow long and complex instructions • Can recognise when they have not understood something and request for it to be repeated or something specific to be explained • Can adjust the way they speak depending on the audience - showing clear distinction between speaking in class and with peers • Can share long and complex stories	• Has difficulty offering specific information in their answers or explanations • Has difficulty telling events in the order that they happen • Has difficulty reading 'between the lines' and may understand language literally • Has difficulty following instructions in a group setting	• Allow extra thinking time - some young people may need to pause before answering • Break down longer instructions into chunks and then encourage the young person to repeat it back • Encourage independence through the use of visuals, timetables and checklists to plan, organise and prioritise • Encourage self-advocacy by helping them to explain their needs to others