

Speech, Language, Literacy and Communication Difficulties Checklist - Secondary School-Age Children

Expressive difficulties	✓	Listening and Understanding Difficulties	✓	Social Interaction Difficulties	✓	Literacy Difficulties	✓
Difficulty pronouncing long words / stammering / unusual voice quality		Easily distracted, disruptive or staring blankly		Difficulty understanding and using body language, facial expressions and tone of voice		Tendency to read inaccurately	
Using sentence structures or grammar expected from someone younger		Problems learning and remembering topic/subject specific vocabulary		Poor confidence and self-esteem and behaviour difficulties		Slow, hesitant reading / avoiding reading out loud	
Relies on short, basic sentences		Difficulty remembering lists or telephone numbers		Frequent conflicts with peers		Poor decoding skills when faced with new words	
Problems linking sentences effectively using connectives		Difficulty repeating and acting on longer, complex instructions. Waits to see what others do first		Difficulty making relevant contributions to discussions		Leaves out of letters/words in writing, inconsistent spelling of the same word	
Problems sequencing ideas and sentences, so explanations and stories are confused/don't make sense/ long-winded		Explicitly / Implicitly (e.g. frequently asking to go to the toilet or causing disruptions to be sent out of class) opting out of tasks and activities		Unable to adapt their behaviour and style of language depending on who they are talking to or the context		Mixes the letter order in writing/reading (e.g. tired for tried)	
Not able to find the right words at the right time		Difficulty answering abstract questions, making predictions and inferences		Too quiet or contributes too much		Slow writing speed	
Uses generic, empty words instead of specific vocabulary, e.g. thingy, um...		Difficulty extracting the main ideas in stories/passages		Responses to others seem rude and inappropriate		Difficulty planning and writing essays	
Takes long to say a sentence, uses "erms" and uhms", revises their sentences		Does not contribute to discussions and avoids answering when called out		Difficulty forming and maintaining friendships		Struggles to answer reading comprehension questions	
Not able to use language to compromise/negotiate in discussions or disagreements		Difficulty understanding idioms, irony, metaphorical language		Often gets into trouble		Weak study skills including homework, revision, exam techniques	
						seems to be able to read fluently, but does not comprehend well	