



# Talk Boost KS1 Tracker / Year 2

Child's name ..... Date of Tracker .....

Date of birth ..... Age: Years ..... Months ..... Male/Female .....

Name of person completing the Tracker .....

Notes:

Understanding spoken language	✓ Score 1	✓ Score 3	✓ Score 5
<p><b>1. They should be able to focus on key points in a sentence in order to answer a question</b></p> <p><i>Instructions to child: I'm going to ask you a question, so listen carefully.</i></p> <p><b>Two buses have one passenger in each but two trains are empty, except for the driver. How many passengers are there all together?</b></p> <p><i>You can repeat the question once to help them remember, but say it at a steady pace, all in one go.</i></p>	No/ inaccurate response	Tried but couldn't remember	Correct response
<p><b>2. They should be aware of when a message is not clear and ask for an explanation</b></p> <p><i>Ask them the following question – they should ask for an explanation of what a dromedary is (it's another word for camel).</i></p> <p><i>Instructions to child: Can you tell me what the difference is between a dromedary and a camel?</i></p>	No response/ attempt to answer	Says 'I don't know'	Asks for an explanation/ knows the answer
<p><b>3. They should be able to understand complex two to three-part instructions</b></p> <p><i>Instructions to child: Listen carefully to my instructions and do what I say.</i></p> <p><i>Say the instruction at a steady pace, but in one go, being careful not to break it up as you say it. Change the colour if there is nothing blue in the room.</i></p> <p><b>Stamp your feet loudly, put your hands behind your back then point to something blue.</b></p>	0-1 part correct	2 parts correct	3 parts correct
Understanding spoken language total scores			

Understanding and using vocabulary	✓ Score 1	✓ Score 3	✓ Score 5
<p><b>1. Can they compare words – the way they look, sound or mean?</b></p> <p><i>Instructions to child: What do you notice about the following words?</i></p> <p>a. <b>Hat, fat, cat</b> (<i>all rhyme</i>)</p> <p>b. <b>Small, tiny, little</b> (<i>all mean the same thing</i>)</p> <p>c. <b>Dog, doll, dive</b> (<i>all start with D</i>)</p> <p>d. <b>Polar bear, bare arm</b> (<i>sound the same, mean something different</i>)</p>	0–1 correct	2 correct	3–4 correct
<p><b>2. They should be able to ‘guess the word’ when provided with clues about shape, size and function</b></p> <p><i>Instructions to child: I’m going to describe some words. Can you guess what I’m talking about?</i></p> <p>a. <b>It’s a wild animal, grey and quite fat with thick skin. It isn’t an elephant, it likes the mud and water, it has a long name and starts with ‘h’</b> (<i>hippopotamus</i>)</p> <p>b. <b>It’s a round medium-sized fruit that can be green or red, grows on trees and has a core</b> (<i>apple</i>)</p> <p>c. <b>It’s a rectangle, with four legs, is big and sometimes made of wood and you can put things on it</b> (<i>table</i>)</p> <p>d. <b>It’s a sphere, it is medium-sized and bouncy and you can kick it or throw it</b> (<i>ball</i>)</p>	0–1 correct	2 correct	3–4 correct

Understanding and using vocabulary	✓ Score 1	✓ Score 3	✓ Score 5
<p><b>3. They should be able to explain what words mean</b></p> <p><i>Instructions to child:</i> I'm going to say some words. Can you tell me what they mean? So, if I say what does car mean, you could say it's something you can drive and it has wheels. Let's try these. Try and tell me two things about:</p> <p>a. Coat</p> <p>b. Television</p> <p>c. Aeroplane</p> <p>d. Run</p> <p><i>Scoring guidance:</i> Score as correct if they say at least one accurate thing about each word.</p>	0–1 correct	2 correct	3–4 correct
<b>Understanding and using vocabulary total scores</b>			

Sentences	✓ Score 1	✓ Score 3	✓ Score 5
<p><b>1. They should be able to use an imaginative range of descriptive words in sentences</b></p> <p><i>Instructions to child: I want you to think of lots of good describing words. For example, if we describe an elephant we might say it was huge, wrinkly and grey. Let's think of how you would describe some other things. Think of the best describing words you can.</i></p> <p>a. <b>How would you describe a tiger?</b> <i>Score correct: e.g. A tiger is fierce, stripy and lives in a jungle</i></p> <p>b. <b>How would you describe your house?</b> <i>Score correct: e.g. Cosy, warm and a bit untidy</i></p> <p>c. <b>How would you describe your best friend?</b> <i>Score correct: e.g. My best friend is fun and kind</i></p> <p>d. <b>How would you describe your favourite food?</b> <i>Score correct: e.g. I like jelly cos it's wobbly and fun and yummy</i></p> <p><i>If they're struggling, give another example, e.g. My favourite food is chocolate and I would describe it as sweet, delicious and smooth. What about you, what's your favourite food? How would you describe it?</i></p>	0–1 appropriate response	2 appropriate responses	3–4 appropriate responses




Sentences	✓ Score 1	✓ Score 3	✓ Score 5
<p><b>2. They should be able to use more complicated grammar and different ways to join phrases to help explain or justify</b></p> <p><i>Instructions to child: I'm going to ask you some questions:</i></p> <p>a. <b>Why are too many sweets and chocolates bad for you?</b>  <b>Score correct:</b> e.g. <i>They are bad for you cos they make you fat, if you don't do exercise it's even worse:</i>  <b>NOT</b> <i>Cos my mum says I can't have any</i></p> <p>b. <b>Can you explain how to make a sandwich?</b>  <b>Score correct:</b> e.g. <i>I'm not sure cos my dad makes all the sandwiches, but it's got bread and jam in and it's delicious and tasty:</i> <b>NOT</b> <i>We buy them from the shops</i></p> <p>c. <b>A young boy is playing with matches. Why is this dangerous?</b>  <b>Score correct:</b> e.g. <i>Matches are really dangerous cos they can set the whole house on fire and everything can burn down and that would be terrible:</i> <b>NOT</b> <i>Because it's really dangerous</i></p> <p><b>Scoring guidance:</b> <i>Their answers don't necessarily have to be 'right', but they do need to give a good argument for why they think that.</i></p>	0–1 appropriate response	2 appropriate responses	3 appropriate responses







Storytelling and narrative	✓ Score 1	✓ Score 3	✓ Score 5
<p><b>3. They should be able to accurately predict what could happen in a story</b></p> <p><i>Instructions to child:</i> I'm going to tell you a little story about an adventurous girl. See if you can guess what happens to her.</p> <p>Sally was full of adventure and often got into all kinds of trouble. One cold winter's day, Sally went to the local park where there was a duck pond, but today the pond was completely frozen. The ducks were walking on the ice. It looked just like an ice rink. Sally's mum had warned her never to go on the pond if it was icy because it wasn't safe, but Sally thought she knew best, so...</p> <p><i>Write down what they say:</i></p> <p><b>Scoring guidance:</b>  <b>Score 3:</b> e.g. She fell through the ice.  <b>Score 5:</b> e.g. She went on the ice and was skating around when the ice cracked and she fell in.</p>	<p>Not able to respond</p> <p>Not an accurate idea of what might happen</p>	<p>Followed with 1 idea/ simple explanation</p>	<p>Followed with more than 1 idea/more detailed explanation</p>
<p><b>Storytelling and narrative total scores</b></p>			

<b>Social interaction</b>	 <b>Score 1</b>	 <b>Score 3</b>	 <b>Score 5</b>
<p><b>1. They should be able to start conversations with other people and join in with group conversations</b>  <i>Have they initiated any conversation during the time you've been with them?</i></p>	No: they've been quiet throughout	Partially: they've talked a little	Yes: they've been chatty
<p><b>2. They should be able to join in and organise role play with friends</b>  <i>Instructions to child: I'm interested in the games you like to play. What games do you play with your friends? Can you explain how to play that game?</i>  <i>Do they give examples of playing with others? Write down what they say:</i></p> <p><b>Scoring guidance:</b>  <i>Do they give examples of pretend play and organising their games?</i>  <b>Score 1:</b> e.g. <i>I play running around and things at playtime with my mates.</i>  <b>Score 3:</b> e.g. <i>We pretend we are on the telly.</i>  <b>Score 5:</b> e.g. <i>We play a game called the Invincibles where we are like spies and we have to look for clues for stuff. Sometimes we have someone who is really evil and the spies have to catch him.</i></p>	No examples or very simple explanation	1 example with some detail	More than 1 example or details given



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## Score summary

	Total scores	Specialist support/ assessment	Targeted support needed, such as <i>Talk Boost KS1</i>	Universal good practice needed
1. Understanding spoken language		3	4-12	13-15
2. Understanding and using vocabulary		3	4-12	13-15
3. Sentences		3	4-12	13-15
4. Storytelling and narrative		3	4-12	13-15
5. Social interaction		3	4-12	13-15

## Interpreting the scores

- Children falling completely in the **RED** column will need further assessment and may well need specialist support.
- Children with difficulties (mainly **AMBER**) in all areas would benefit from *Talk Boost KS1*.
- Children falling completely in the **GREEN** column don't need additional support, just universal good practice to support language and communication.
- Children with mixed profiles, e.g. with difficulties and strengths in different areas, will need additional assessment and/or support.
- It's good practice to continue monitoring all children, as difficulties with language may not always be apparent.