



I CAN Talk Boost Programmes and children with Special Educational Needs

The *Talk Boost* programmes are targeted and evidence based interventions for children aged 3-10 who have language delay in the absence of other identified SEN. The programmes support these children to make significant progress with their language and communication skills.

Talk Boost for children with identified special Educational Needs (SEN):

Using a *Talk Boost Programme* for children with complex needs may not be suitable as:

- *Talk Boost* Programmes are targeted interventions for children with language delay who have the potential to 'catch up'. They are not designed as specialist interventions.
- The interventions were not trialled on children with SEN and so we do not have any evidence of the impact the *Talk Boost Programmes* would make with children with more complex needs.
- Children with identified SEN will probably not make the progress identified in the interventions.
- The suggested pace of the groups and activities may be too fast and not suit children with identified SEN.
- Children with identified SEN would need more opportunities for consolidation.
- The level of repetition, monitoring and indications of when/how to move on with the *Talk Boost* group interventions would not suit children with identified SEN. This is because children with language delay, in the absence of other identified SEN, are more likely to make progress in a predictable manner, and at a fairly rapid rate. Children with complex needs may need a more individualised approach and may follow a less predictable pattern, which can't be accommodated within the structure of the *Talk Boost Programmes*.
- Children with complex needs may find the behavioural requirements of the group challenging.
- The pictures and materials are specifically designed for each age group and may not be appropriate for an older child with SEN.

Under the guidance of a speech and language therapist the *Talk Boost* intervention groups could be adapted for children with identified SEN – but this would mean that children were receiving a programme *based on* the *Talk Boost Programmes*. Evidence of impact based on children with language delay should not be used in relation to children with SEN.

If you would like to discuss the *Talk Boost Programmes* and whether they are suitable for your school, please get in touch with us at info@ican.org.uk.