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Speech and Language Screening in Kempshott Infant School

What is Speech and Language Screening?

A Speech and Language Screening assessment is a test which helps the school to identify if your child has any Speech Language and Communication Needs.

Infant Language Link Assessment

The Language Link Assessment looks at your child's understanding of spoken words and ideas. All of the children in Year R are screened in the first term; we also continue to screen individual children in Year 1 and 2 to monitor progress.

The Year R Screening Test

The Year R Screen also looks at the sounds your child is making and how they use these in words. If the class teacher has concerns regarding your child's speech sounds, they will let you know verbally and then request for the screen to be carried out by an appropriately trained LSA (Mrs Taylor). Mrs Taylor may work 1:1 with your child to practise specific speech sounds if required.

Why does my child need a screening assessment?

Problems understanding language can be very difficult to spot by observation alone. Children can be good at copying their peers and using clues to hide a lack of understanding. A difficulty with understanding which is not picked up can lead to problems with spoken language, literacy and behaviour. Screening all children with the **Infant Language Link Assessment** helps us to make sure we have the right support in place for every child to make progress.

What will happen?

A member of school staff who is trained in completing the assessments will sit with your child. The assessments are picture based and children enjoy completing them. They take around 20 minutes to complete.

What happens if the assessment indicates my child has some difficulty with their speech and language skills?

If the screening assessment identifies that your child has some difficulties with speech or language, they will start the Language Link intervention programme, in a small group 1 x week for 20 minutes with an LSA. Progress is tracked and recorded throughout these sessions. You will be informed by the class teacher if your child is part of a Language Link group.

The children in the Language Groups are assessed again, usually at the end of the academic year, to see if they require further Language Link input into Year 1 or Year 2.

The results of the Year R Screening Test and the Language Link assessments are shared with the SENDCo (Mrs Vanessa Barrett). Individual cases may be reviewed by our link Speech and Language Therapist, who will advise us further regarding a referral to the Speech and Language Therapy Service. Parental permission and input would be sought for a referral.

What can I do to help at home?

A vast amount of language learning happens at home and your input can make a big difference. Information and free resources are available for you on Speech Link's Parent Portal. Visit www.speechandlanguage.info/parents for more information on how speech and language develop and for specific printable activities and resources to try at home. If you have any queries about the screening assessment or results, please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Barrett (SENDCo) via the school office.

Kind regards

V.Barrett

Mrs Vanessa Barrett (SENDCo)