



A creative intervention to support KS1 children with SLCN

"I found a voice through making theatre and am proud to be the patron of Speech Bubbles, which helps hundreds of children to do the same"

Mark Rylance, Speech Bubbles Patron

www.speechbubbles.org.uk

The Problem

Evidence collected by the Communication Trust suggests that, in some areas, as many as 50% of children are starting school with delayed communication skills. Teachers report that as well as teaching reading and writing they increasingly have to teach KS1 children to **speak** and to **play**.

Those in greatest clinical need can be referred to specialist Speech and Language Therapy, but there are large numbers of children who are working **below the SLT threshold** who are still in need of intervention. Speech Bubbles provides a **proven** and **cost-effective** way to make sure that children develop the communication skills needed for the KS1 classroom.

'The analysis suggests that Speech Bubbles is a low cost intervention that delivers good value for money' EY (Ernst and Young) 2018

The Speech Bubbles Approach

Speech Bubbles was developed by **Theatre Artists** working with Speech and Language Therapists and schools. The approach encourages children to tell, act out and reflect on their own stories. Speech Bubbles practitioners use a thoroughly proven structure and their expert knowledge of **whole body communication** to promote children's **communication, confidence** and **wellbeing**. Speech Bubbles sessions are a different kind of experience to a clinical intervention, practitioners work to create a space which is **collaborative, playful** and **fun**.

What's Included?

- Full day CPD certified induction training for two members of staff.
- Speech Bubbles Practitioner for 24 weekly sessions for two groups of 10 children.
- All resources.
- Half-way CPD certified collaborative learning afternoon.

- 2 open parent sessions.
- Annual impact report produced on our online monitoring system.
- Introductory INSET for KS1 staff.
- Half-day end of year practical evaluation session for two members of school staff.

Evidence of Impact

Speech Bubbles runs in schools across the country and has been the subject of numerous research projects. Findings include:

In 2017-2018, 85% of referred children showed improvement in their learning, speaking and listening. 86% of referred children showed improvement in their emotional behaviour and conduct behaviour.

National evaluation of class teachers' pre and post assessments.

"The children receiving the intervention made better progress than a 'control' group in... understanding spoken language; understanding and using vocabulary; sentence building; storytelling and narrative and social interaction."

"Their lively approach to these questions, as much as the scores they obtained, was suggestive of a change in the way they viewed themselves. They appeared as more competent, storytelling subjects with a perspective on their personal worlds."

Dr Heather Price, Psychosocial Studies Research Group, UEL. Comparison Group Study 2017.

"Speech Bubbles offers what appears to be a highly effective and sustainable means of helping children suffering poor social, emotional and educational wellbeing because of their difficulties with communication... It reminds us that a focus on children's wellbeing in school generates increased social, behavioural and educational capital cheaply and effectively."

(Teaching Assistants working on Speech Bubbles) "reported enhanced job satisfaction, new roles in the school, increased personal confidence and capacity."

Evaluation of Speech Bubbles by Dr Jonathan Barnes, Sidney de Haan Research Institute, Canterbury Christchurch University. 2015.

Our evidence has achieved Standard 2 validation by Project Oracle, Children and Youth Evidence Hub.



The Cost to Schools

It costs £6760 to run Speech Bubbles for a year, London Bubble fundraiser to reduce the cost to schools. In 2019/2020 the cost to schools will be in the region of £3500. That's the equivalent of £7.30 per child per session.

To find out more, or to book the programme please contact:

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