**Talk Boost KS1 FAQ**

1. **General**

**What is Talk Boost KS1?**

*Talk Boost KS1* is a language intervention for 4-7 year olds, delivered by a trained teaching assistant 3 times per week for 10 weeks, with linked whole class activities. It boosts the language and communication skills of children who have not had the opportunity to develop their language skills either through lack of good language models in their early years or because they are learning English for the first time.

**What evidence is there to show that Talk Boost KS1 works?**

We have evaluated *Talk Boost KS1* twice, once in a study which compared the results of using *Talk Boost KS1* in schools with a group in schools which didn’t use it and once as part of a whole school approach to supporting speech language and communication needs, called A Chance to Talk. In both evaluations we found statistically significant results to show that on average children made between 9-18 months progress in language levels over the 10 week period.

**Which children will benefit from Talk Boost KS1?**

Children who have intact language learning ability but who have not had the opportunity to develop their language benefit best from *Talk Boost KS1*. We refer to this group of children as having delayed language; their language is delayed compared to their age equivalent peers but they have no internal difficulty which would hinder them from learning language.

**How can Talk Boost KS1 be used with children with Special educational needs and disabilities?**

We do not recommend *Talk Boost KS1* for children with SEN because the pace and design of activities was not designed with their needs in mind. However, with appropriate speech and language therapy support, it might be possible to adapt the materials. You would not get the same rate of progress for this group of children.

**What level of intervention is Talk Boost KS1?**

*Talk Boost KS1* is a targeted intervention. It can be carried out by a trained teaching assistant with whole class activities delivered by the teacher. It comes with a tracker which allows before and after measures to be taken to show progress.

**What is the Talk Boost KS1 tracker?**

The *Talk Boost KS1* Tracker is designed to record a child’s communication and language development in key areas. It can be used to select which children will benefit most from taking part in *Talk Boost KS1* and to evaluate their progress after the intervention. The *Talk Boost KS1* Tracker is not a diagnostic tool and does not in any way replace the detailed speech, language and communication assessment by a speech and language therapist that some children will need.

There is an online version of the Tracker. Using the online Tracker to record your scores enables you to monitor a child’s progress. You can also download and print reports to share with colleagues and parents.

**What is the difference between Talk Boost KS1 and Primary Talk?**

*Talk Boost KS1* is an intervention for 4 children, aged 4-7, working in a small group. *Primary Talk* is a whole school approach combining training, development and outcome measurements to ensure schools are either Supporting Communication or Enhancing Communications across the whole school.

**Does this programme share information with Parents?**

Each child chosen by the school to take part in *Talk Boost KS1* will receive a children’s activity book which can be taken home and shared with parents and carers. These books contain simple games and ‘Top Tips’ to inform parents about supporting effective communication development at home.

1. **Training**

**What training is required to deliver Talk Boost KS1?**

Teaching assistant and teachers must attend one day’s *Talk Boost KS1* training to give them the skills and knowledge they require to understand the rationale behind Talk Boost KS1, identify appropriate children, measure their progress and deliver the intervention.

**What is the cost of Talk Boost KS1?**

You access training through one of our regional *Talk Boost KS1* Licensed Tutors. Prices vary for training and so you should check directly with the tutor. You will still be required to order the training resources directly from Speech and Language UK.

**Who can be trained in Talk Boost KS1?**

Anyone working in a support capacity with children in Reception, Year one and/or Year two can be trained to deliver the intervention as long as they are accompanied on the training by a teacher who will work with them to select appropriate children, measure their progress and moderate the quality of the delivery of the programme.

**How long does Talk Boost KS1 training take?**

One day – 5 hours

**Where is Talk Boost KS1 training held?**

*Talk Boost KS1* training can be delivered in the school or done remotely.

**Can school staff trained in the Talk Boost KS1 intervention train other school staff?**

No - training in *Talk Boost KS1* can only be delivered by Speech and Language UK tutors. This is because it is an evidenced intervention and fidelity to the programme is essential in order to maintain the good results.

1. **Resources**

**How are Talk Boost KS1 resources ordered?**

*Talk Boost KS1* resources can be ordered by visiting the shop on our website [www.speechandlanguage.org.uk](http://www.speechandlanguage.org.uk), emailing info@speechandlanguage.org.uk, or calling 020 7843 2510.

**Can I just buy the resources without the training?**

No – You must be trained to use the *Talk Boost KS1* intervention.

**Can additional staff attend Talk Boost KS1 training without purchasing the starter pack?**

* One kit per training pair (teacher/teaching assistant). Where another teaching assistant is working with the same year group of children they can attend the *Talk Boost KS1* practitioner training, and share the same kit to deliver the intervention. They need to buy another delegate book for the training.
* Where a school wants multiple groups of children to receive *Talk Boost KS1* across year groups it is important that the school has a kit for each group so that the quality of the delivery of the intervention is not compromised. Further teacher and teaching assistant training pairs will also need to receive practitioner training in this instance.
* All delegates attending *Talk Boost KS1* practitioner training must have a copy of the delegate book.

1. **Online Tracker**

**Are there electronic copies of the Tracker?**

Yes, if you need additional copies you can download the Tracker from the speech and language UK website or from the tracker itself under the Resources section.

**How do we use the Tracker?**

Follow the instructions in the manual titled Using the Tracker. Additional guidance can be found on the main Speech and Language UK website, including videos, How To guides and FAQs.

**Do we need to send the Tracker data we collect to Speech and Language UK**

No, but if you want to use the online Tracker this will share information with us.

**Can I use the Tracker on EAL children?**

There are sections of the Tracker that do not rely on language skills but overall the Tracker looks at children's progress using English. You can use this with children who are learning English as an additional language but it will not give you an overall picture of their language skills.

The scoring relates to children whose first language is English so you will not get a red/amber/green rating. Instead you can use the Tracker to check children's starting points and progress in learning English.

1. **Licensed Tutors**

**Is the programme only delivered by Speech and Language UK trainers or can other people become local trainers?**

Speech and Language Therapists and Practitioners who hold Qualified Teacher Status can be licensed to deliver *Early Talk Boost* training. You will need to apply online to become a licensee at [www.speechandlanguage.org.uk](http://www.speechandlanguage.org.uk)

**What are the costs of becoming a Licensed Tutor?**

* The one day training course for Talk Boost KS1 is £420.
* All Licensed Tutors also need to pay an annual licence fee of £50+VAT.

**Where is Licensed Tutor training held?**

Training courses are publicised on the website and delivered remotely via Zoom.

**How do trained staff access the evaluation form?**

Following training, all staff need to evaluate online at [www.speechandlanguage.org.uk](http://www.speechandlanguage.org.uk), where a certificate will be sent.