

SPEECH & LANGUAGE EVALUATION

Spring 2025

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE WITH THE DOWN SYNDROME TRAINING & SUPPORT SERVICE LTD

Speech & Language input for children and adults with Down syndrome is vital. Research recommends that children and young people with Down syndrome benefit from monthly input with gains still being made in their 20's.

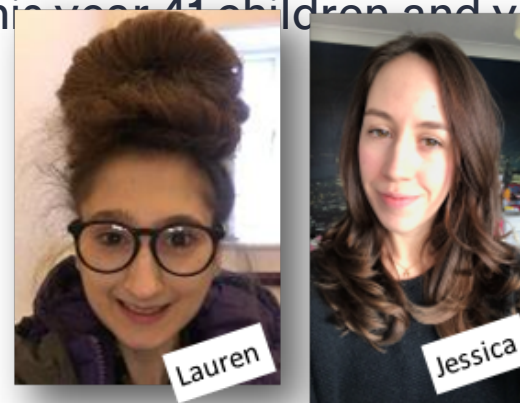
Statutory speech and language can be very patchy and many children do not get continuous input. Only through a charitable service can such input be achieved.

We offer group sessions to all children and young people over the age of 5. Under 5's are offered fortnightly sessions via our early development groups and these sessions address their early speech, language and communication needs. We also offer occasional one to one sessions should a child/young person or adult need a little additional support.

We employ two highly specialised therapists, Lauren Drake and Jessica Foley, trained by ourselves, to deliver up to 13 group sessions each month. This year 41 children and young people have benefitted from the sessions.

Both therapists deliver across all age groups and can provide a private assessment and report work upon request.

Adult speech & language group sessions involve developing confidence to communicate needs in real life social settings and situations for example catching



STUDENTS FROM LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

Throughout the year nine Speech & Language students from Leeds Beckett University have joined us to gain work experience.

We are delighted that we are able to help train future therapists gain knowledge and understanding of people with Down syndrome:

Daniel Champion, Cliona Dykins, Olivia Brear, Aaliyah Ilyas, Lorna Kime, Amirah Batool, Mia Cuthbertson, Dani Mahoney and Ellie Gilman.

FUNDING

An award of £17,597 from Awards For All, National Lottery in February 2024 funded our speech & language group sessions and their administration until July 2025.

We are currently seeking further funding for these sessions until we secure the cost will be covered from our reserves.



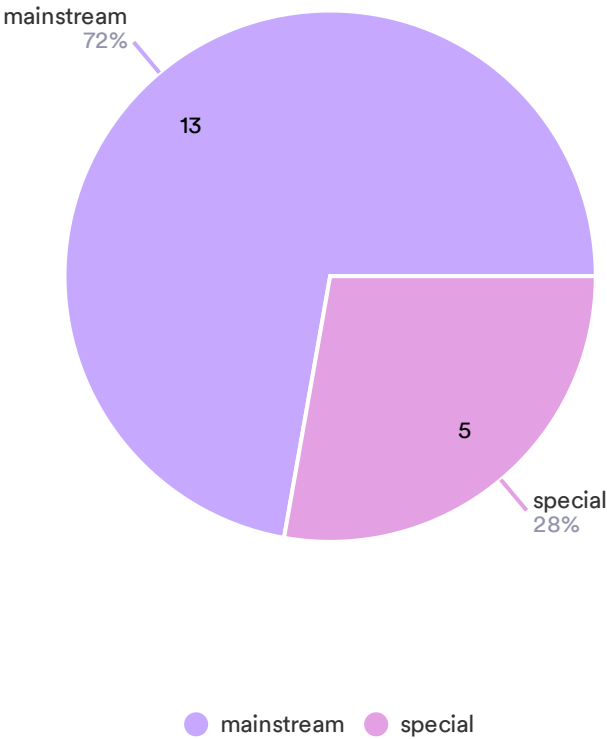
Child/young person's age

18 Responses

Data	Resp...
6	3
7	3
17	2
8	2
15	2
10	2
16	1
9	1
21	1
19	1

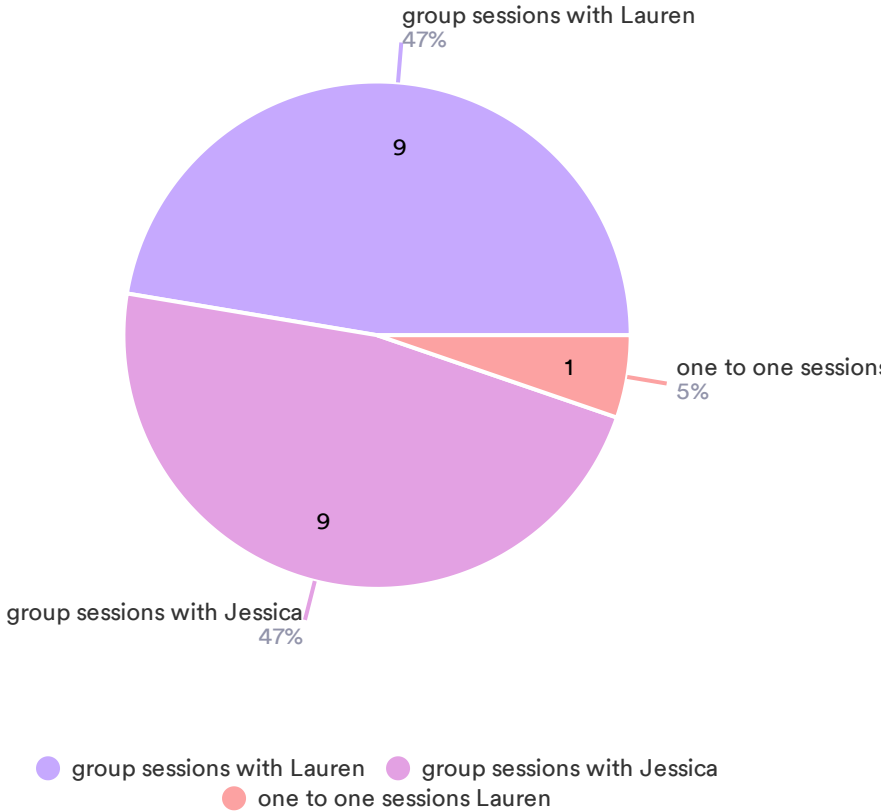
Child/young person's school/college

18 Responses



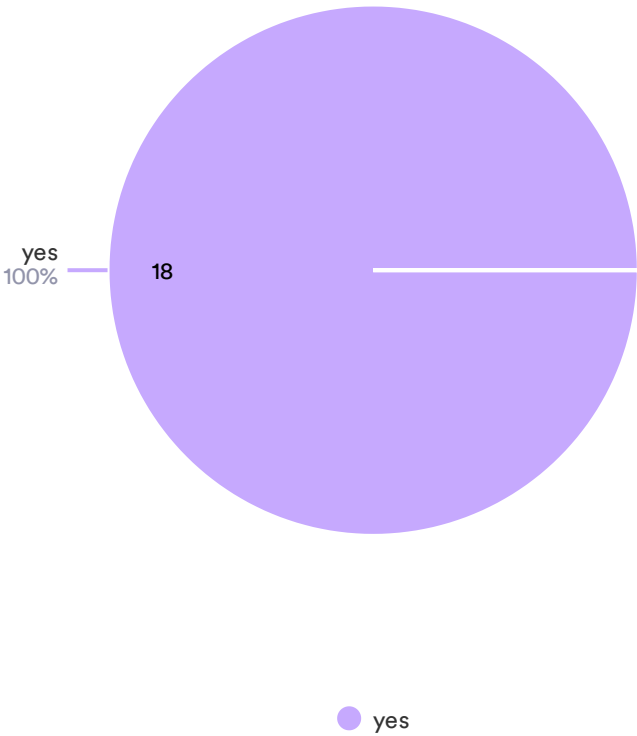
My child/young person attends

19 Responses



Are you happy with your speech & language therapist

18 Responses



Any comments you would like to add about your therapist

10 Responses- 8 Empty

Data	Responses
She's helpful and knowledgeable	1
Jess is so knowledgeable and kind	1
The speech session is very helpful for my son to improve his speech, social skills and making friends. However, it is too far for us to more consistent with the attendance.	1
Lauren has built a good repore with the children.	1
Lovely! Very patient and manages the group very well. It is great to be learning with a group and with children who he has known for a long time now. Those friendships are really important.	1
Thank You Lauren	1
We love Lauren and A always engages well with her	1
She's very good N likes her.	1
Only been with Jessica for a few sessions but appears to use time not only to encourage and develops speech and language but incorporates activities of daily activities such as writing own name and address on envelope and structuring a sentence within the card.	1
I loves attending the sessions. In Calderdale I does not have access to a speech therapist so we really value these sessions	1

How would you rate your child/young person's speech & language therapist out of 10

Best Response



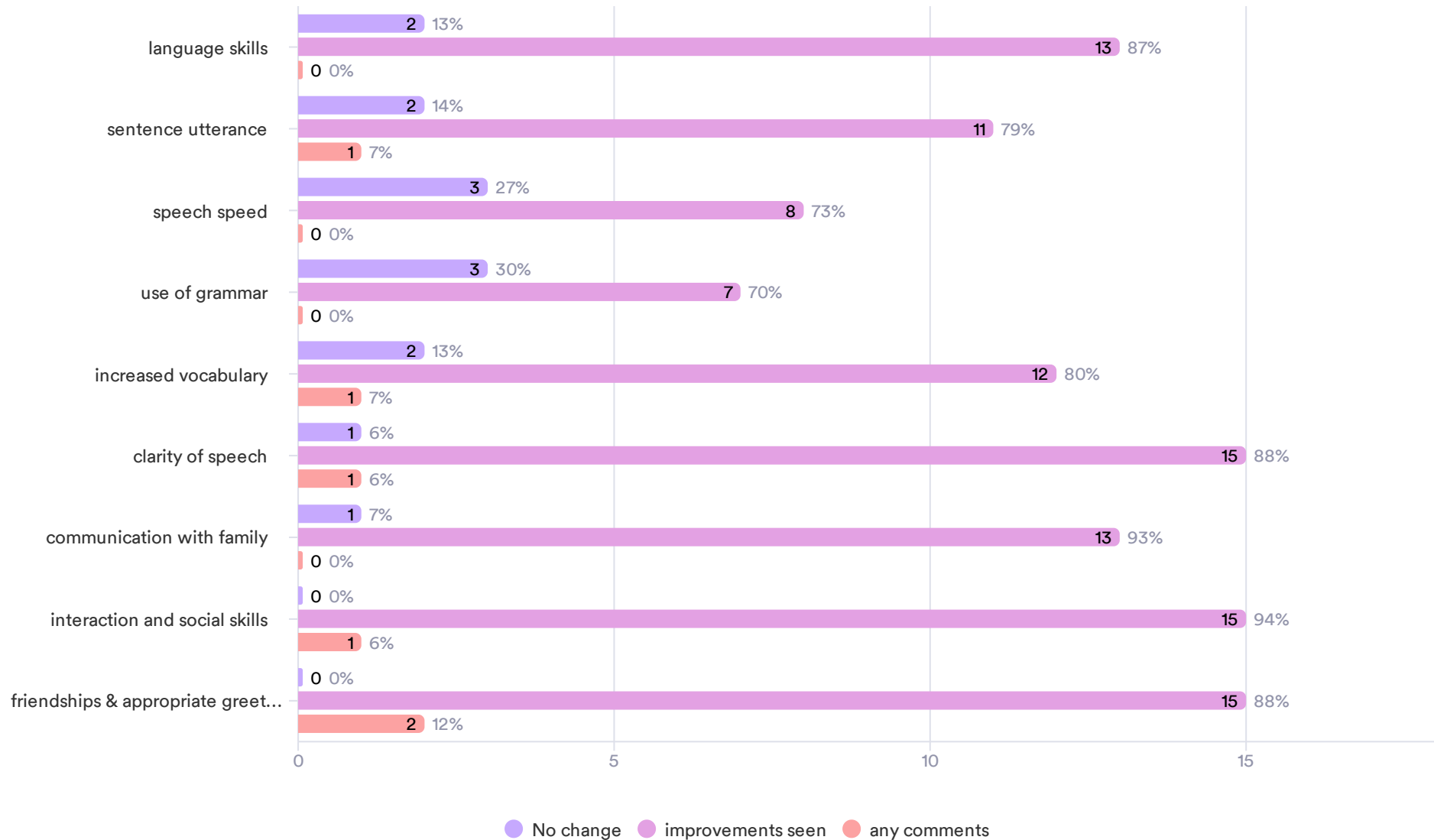
56%
Percentage

18
Responses

Data	Response	%
10	10	56%
9	5	28%
8	3	17%
1	0	0%

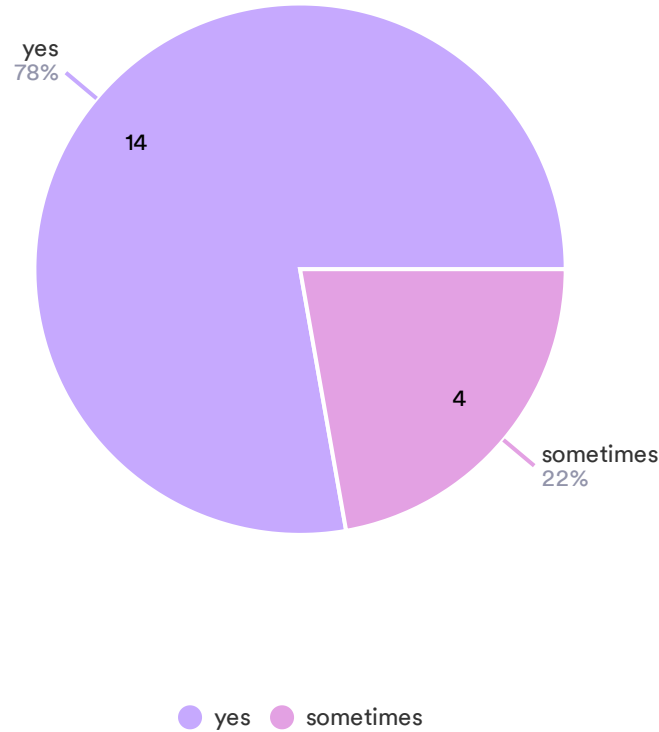
Have you noticed any improvement in any of the following areas due to attending the speech & language sessions

17 Responses- 1 Empty



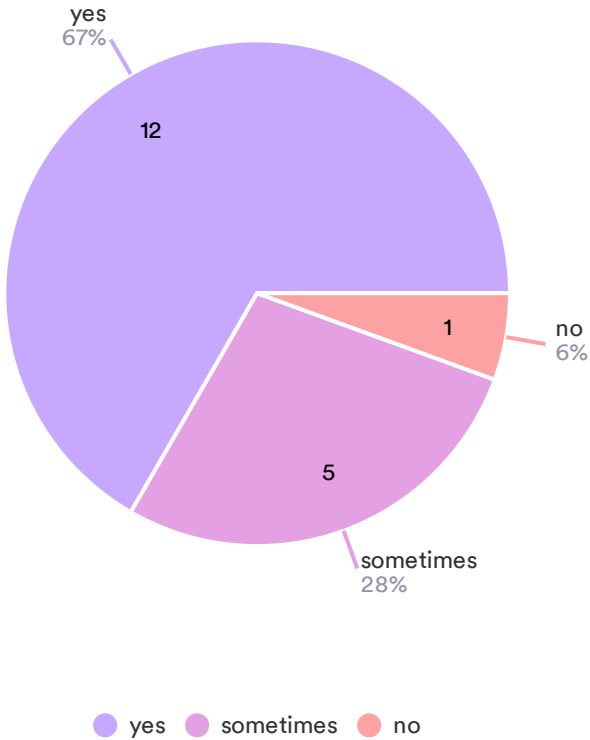
Do you and your child enjoy coming to the sessions

18 Responses



Does your child/young person manage to engage for the full hour?

18 Responses



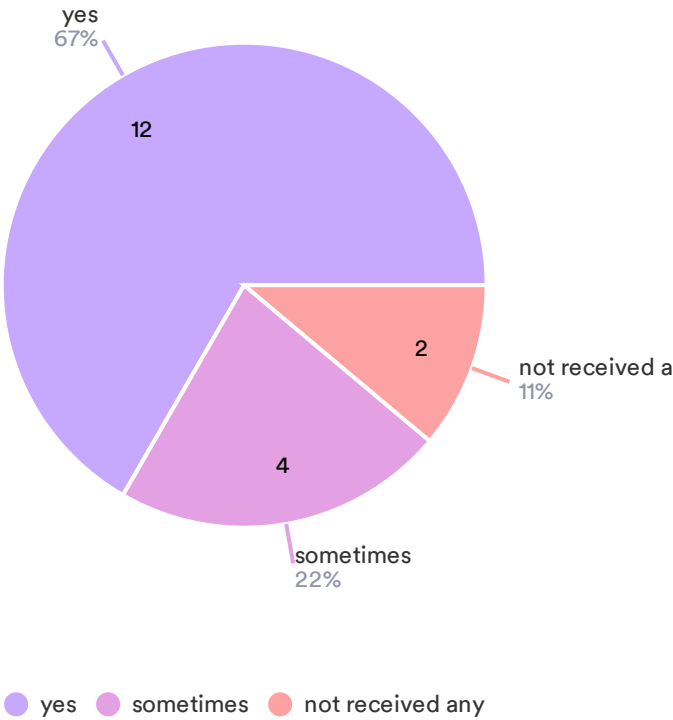
Any comments on the sessions

8 Responses- 10 Empty

Data
Thank you. N is beginning to use his skills taught in a range of social situations.
My son is sometimes having less opportunities to talk as he is good at waiting and no behavioural issues.
Engagement varies depending on factors like how he is feeling, how many other children are there/what they are doing and what the task is. Lauren is good at noticing this and changing the task/incorporating movement when engagement is drifting.
My child struggles to always focus. Away from the group he is reading and speaking in sentences but in the groups he will often only utter a few words and often not engage. He tells everyone he meets "hello my name is...." But at the group will sit with his thumb in when faced with the handprints. His behaviour there is quite tricky and frustrating. I feel this really does limit what he now gets out of the session and I don't know how to improve this.
Loves to join in and do any lesson that is going on.
I think these sessions are invaluable for our children, however I also believe that they need more direct speech therapy on a regular basis in school. Without these sessions my child would not have made the same progress he has but feel he could make more progress in the school environment where there are more challenges/ different scenarios to a session at the centre with the main caregiver present.
I am not sitting in on session but get feedback at end of session.
I really enjoys & looks forward to the activities that they do

Have you found the resources/information provided helpful?

10 Responses



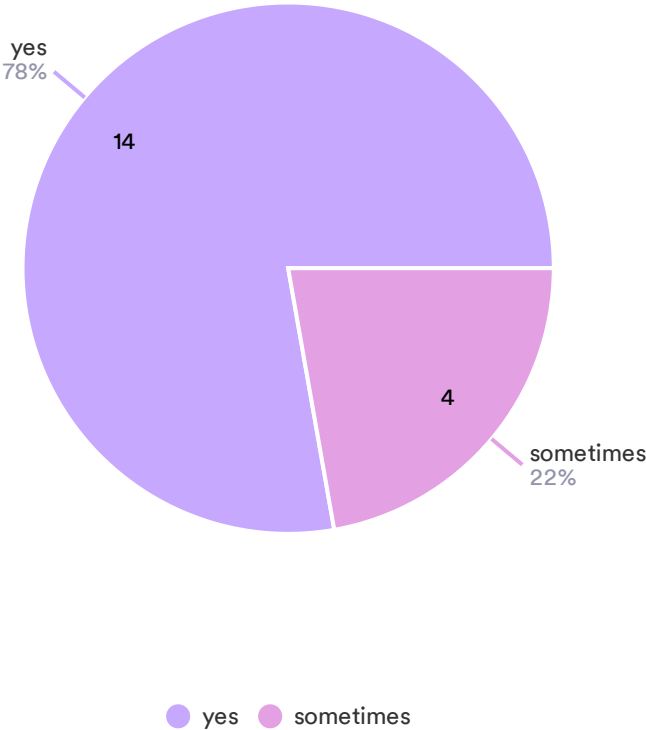
any comments

5 Responses- 13 Emotv

Data
Ideas about activities to practice at home are helpful.
We really value the groups and just wish our child would engage more consistently.
I can always ask advice with language and always get helpful tips and advice, even where to buy them if it's something I feel A needs
as only been in the group a short time any tips and advice for continuing learning at home when Jessica gets to know my son will be appreciated.
Would like more comprehensive feedback each term with maybe ideas of what to work on at home

Has attending the sessions benefitted you as a parent?

18 Responses



any comments please

7 Responses- 11 Empty

Data
I can ask bespoke questions and get useful resources from a knowledgeable professional
Copying the techniques Lauren uses and learning how to support clear pronunciation have been very helpful.
Absolutely! I need to feel like we are trying! The peer support of fellow parents and the tips and sounds to focus on are really useful. Therapist is so understanding and works hard with the children even if they don't want to!
Helps to see someone working with A that really understands her.
I believe that children and families need regular direct support of a therapist as our children pass through different stages of their life.
While the session is taking place it gives an opportunity for parents to have some time to exchange ideas, sharing tips and advice on what is helping or not helping. Gaining insight on how to deal with school, social care and support that may help. I hope he gains confidence
Jess very kindly provided a report to include in I's Transition EHCP for going to college

What do you hope your child/young person will get out of the speech& language sessions?(for example - friendships, independence,inclusion, confidence, life skills.)

15 Responses- 3 Empty

Data
Inclusion, independence, friendships, confidence
To prompt and promote independence and making conversations.
Clear speech and friendships
Independence, confidence and build friendships
To improve his speech, social skills and making friends
Increased vocabulary, improved speech clarity, the ability to produce sentences. Also further developing friendships and confidence.
All of the above! Clear understandable speech is so important.
Friendship with P and able to interact together. Also talking with Lauren. Her confidence with a familiar face and a familiar way of working and interacting.
Tasks to help put sentences together. The social element too
Confidence
There is a presidency that Speech and language therapy has direct links to the educational outcomes of children with SEN and in particular children with DS. Speech and language needs the right support, not only for families but also in the school environment. I feel these sessions support me to help progress his speech but more direct therapy and support is needed in school, supporting attention, speech production, behaviour and subject differentiation
I hope he learns to speak and express himself more clearly instead of a grunt when asked a question ie " how was your day at school" To be more confident at making friends, sharing and taking turns. To make clearer sentences when talking.
Greater clarity to his speech and increased vocab so he can engage better with his peers and his family.
Other entries

Have you noticed any change in your child/young person because of the sessions?(for example - friendships, independence, inclusion, confidence, life skills.)

11 Responses- 4 Empty

Data
Confidence and friendships
Confidence and inclusion
Yes he always looks forward to seeing his friends and Lauren.
Increased vocabulary and speech clarity. Improved confidence and building on friendships. His ability to focus on tasks is also improving.
Our child is visibly delighted when he is understood by people. School comment on how much better his relationships and learning are now his communication has come on so much.
A is always very happy when it's lesson time. She relates well in the sessions
Speech development - more varied vocabulary and longer sentences or at least attempting them
Independence
Yes, he gets frustrated because he cannot communicate and make his wishes understood.
Still early days as only being going for a short time but appears to have settled in.
It helps I's confidence in being with people she doesn't normally see during her school week

Have any of these changes made a difference at home/in the wider environment?

11 Responses- 7 Empty

Data
Yes
Yes both at home and school
Happier child overall
Not really
Yes- increased communication and interaction with friends and family.
Absolutely. He now tells me "I run off" before he attempts a quick getaway!! Starting to express himself much better.
At home we often carry on these lessons and buy a particular game or activity/ book used and it helps towards learning
Somewhat. However my child has been identified as needing more support but these sessions most definitely have improved his life.
Not as yet.
Yes the confidence I has in different situations

Any comments on venue and timing?

8 Responses- 9 Empty

Data
All really good
All fab
No issues with timing or venue
The time works well. The venue is accessible but can be a little cold at times.
All good.
All ok
Venue is fine although far away from my home.sonedays he is a little hungry as 12 is his lunchtime.
Timing is fine and location is fine. Can stay in other room and get a drink or walk down into center for a short break.

Thank You!

SPEECH & LANGUAGE QUESTIONNAIRE Spring 2025