

Bercow: Ten Years On

Finding out about help for children's communication difficulties

What is the report all about? What can I do?

Communication skills - speaking, listening and understanding - are really important.

You need communication skills for school, for making friends, for getting a job.

But over a million children in England have communication difficulties.

At the moment, these children do not get enough help.

"I should have speech and language therapy, but it never happens."

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We asked about the help that children with communication difficulties get.

We asked over 2,500 people: children and young people, parents, teachers, speech and language therapists. We also asked the people who make plans and pay for the help.

Then we took all of this information and wrote a report called 'Bercow: Ten Years On'.

What we found

More than half of parents said help was not good enough.

Only **15%** of people said there was enough speech and language therapy

We found 5 main things

1. Communication skills are really important. But lots of people don't know this.
2. People who decide what happens (like the Government or your council) don't think about children with communication difficulties enough when they are planning.
3. The help you get depends on where you live. You might get help, or you might not. This is not fair.
4. We know what helps the most for children with communication difficulties. But often there is not enough money or people. So the help is not good enough.
5. Lots of children with communication difficulties do not get noticed. So they don't get the help they need.

What needs to happen? What can I do?

1. We want more people to know about communication

You can ask your school to take part in No Pens Day Wednesday

2. We want people in charge to make sure communication difficulties are in their plans

You can ask your school council to do a survey on communication difficulties in your school

3. We want children to get the help they need, wherever they live

You can give this paper to your teacher or Headteacher so they know about the *Bercow: Ten Years On* report

4. We want children to have the best help they can get

You can tell your teachers what help really works for you

5. We want people to spot children with communication difficulties as soon as possible

You can ask your parents to give your school a poster about communication skills

On our website you will find lots of things to help you.

Question time in Worcestershire

Children in Worcestershire invited their local MP to come into school.

They thought up lots of questions about communication difficulties and about the help children get.

In schools, children had a 'Question Time' panel like on TV.

This really helped to make sure MPs understood about how important communication is, and how many children have communication difficulties.

There is a lot more information on the website: www.bercow10yearson.com. The page www.bercow10yearson.com/resources has lots of ideas of things you can do.