

## Measuring progress in spoken language

There is a range of tools available which schools and early years settings can use to track progress in spoken language. This is just a sample.

**In early years** – some of these are free to download

- The *Early Years Foundation Stage* curriculum provides descriptors in Communication and Language about what is expected at different ages.
- The [Wellcomm screening tool](#) gives a simple measure of language ability using a traffic light system, and can be used to measure progress.
- The Communication Trust [Progression Tools](#) includes tools for 3 & 4 year olds
- [Universally speaking](#) – booklets describe communication skills at different ages
- [Posters](#) showing typical talk for children
- Some programmes include tools which measure the progress children make after taking part in the intervention:
  - I CAN [Early Talk Boost](#)

**In primary schools** – some of these are free to download

- The Communication Trust [Communicating the Curriculum](#) – based on the 12 statements of the spoken language programme of study in the National Curriculum
- [Universally speaking](#) – booklets describe communication skills at different ages
- [Posters](#) showing typical talk for children
- Some programmes include tools which measure the progress children make after taking part in the intervention:
  - I CAN [Talk Boost KS1](#) and [Talk Boost KS2](#)
  - [Speech Link and Language link](#)

**In secondary schools** – some of these are free to download

- The [Cognitive abilities test](#) (CAT) or [Midyis test](#) that schools do with pupils when they start secondary school often give a verbal and non verbal score. This is a way of identifying pupils with weak verbal skills.
- [Posters](#) showing typical talk for secondary aged pupils.
- [Universally speaking](#) - booklets which show communication skills at different ages
- The Communication Trust [Progression Tools](#) (secondary)
- [Talk for Work profile](#) – profile progress in the communication skills needed for work
- Some programmes include tools which measure the progress children make after taking part in the intervention:
  - [Speech Link and Language link](#)

Pupils themselves have important things to say about their own communication skills. Regularly asking them to rate their own spoken language skills will provide you with another progress measure – but it will also help to develop their own awareness of these important skills. An example of this can be found [here](#).