

Language Needs

Education

Spoken language difficulties are common, easily missed, and often read as behaviour.

Developmental language disorder is a persistent difficulty with understanding or using spoken language that is not explained by another condition. It affects comprehension as much as expression.

PREVALENCE

about 7% of children

OFTEN READ AS

behaviour

- Roughly two pupils in an average class of 30.
- Comprehension difficulty is far less visible than speech.
- Classroom instructions are a common failure point.
- It is frequently mistaken for inattention or defiance.
- Vocabulary gaps compound across every subject.
- Referral to speech and language therapy is a specialist route.

LOOK FOR IT

Shorten instructions, give one step at a time, pre-teach vocabulary, and check by asking the pupil to say back what they will do.

Educational reference only, not clinical guidance. Identification and therapy are the role of speech and language professionals.