

Mini Speech Screen Guide

We often notice that children say words incorrectly and they are sometimes difficult to understand. This is expected during speech development and usually words become clearer as children grow. This guide is to help parents and those working with children to complete a **Mini Speech Screen** if there are concerns that a child's speech is not developing as expected.

If you are working with a child who you feel would benefit from completing this screen, please discuss with parents/carers before proceeding.

You will need the 4 pictures below and a record sheet. Please print these single-sided and in colour. Once you have printed the pictures, cut across the middle to give you the 4 separate pictures.

If you do not have access to a colour printer, please contact us and we will post them.



Getting started

- Complete one picture at a time on different days. Allow about 10 minutes for each picture.
- Choose a quiet, well-lit place where you can sit comfortably for a little while.
- Ideally, sit across from each other so that you can easily see each other faces.
- Check for distractions and background noise. Switch off TVs and devices. If possible, arrange for other children to be looked after elsewhere.
- If you can, video your child completing the assessment. Afterwards, you can watch the video and listen to words again to check your record sheet. You can also ask someone else to watch the video and see if they agree on how your child is saying the word.

Carrying out the assessment

Each picture has 9 words. These are listed alongside the pictures and in the tables on the record sheet. Look at each picture in turn with your child. Write down how your child says each word in the tables as best you can. Listen out for whether your child **changes** or **misses out** sounds in a word. You can ask your child to repeat if you did not hear it first time but be sure to explain that you did not hear properly, so they do not feel that they have said it wrong. Give lots of praise and encouragement. Take your time, allowing extra quiet moments for your child to respond. If your child does not respond, not to worry, just move on and keep the assessment fun and relaxed.

Point to the picture and encourage your child to say the word **on their own, without you saying the word**. If your child does not say the word on their own, ask them to repeat after you and mark the word with an asterisk *. If your child does not say the word after being asked to repeat, mark the word with a dash -.

Picture 1 – The Park

- Where are they playing... (your child says) **'park'**
- Those are her.... **'feet'**
- He gave the ball a big.... **'kick'**
- He's riding his... **'bike'**
- Count the children...one...**'two'**...three... **'four'**
- Who is playing... **'children'**
- She is riding her... **'scooter'**
- What colour is the sun...**'yellow'**

Picture 2 – The Sink

- Water comes out of the... (your child says) **'tap'**
- The toothbrushes are in the.... **'pot'**
- There's some pink.... **'soap'**
- It's a yellow... **'duck'**
- Wash your hands in the... **'sink'**
- The sink is... **'white'**
- What do we clean our teeth with... **'toothbrush'**
- What colour is the water... **'blue'**
- There is a black...**'floor'**
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Picture 3 – The Kennel

- Who's up here... (your child says) **'cat'**
- She's on the... **'roof'**
- It's the dog's... **'house'**
- He's wagging his... **'tail'**
- What's in the bowl... **'food'**
- This is the cat's... **'paw'**
- What colour is this (point to the cat)... **'orange'**
- What has the dog got on his back... **'spots'**
- The dog is sitting on the... **'grass'**

Picture 4 – The Beach

- What's up in the sky... (your child says) **'sun'**
- Look on top of the car, it's a... **'case'**
- The tree has a long green... **'leaf'**
- It's a stripy... **'ball'**
- We can splash in the... **'sea'**
- Mum/Dad drives the... **'car'**
- These are fluffy, white... **'clouds'**
- This is a tall... **'tree'**
- On the sand, it's a little... **'starfish'**