

What you might see:

You might see a child who:

repeats sounds e.g. 'I want a p-p-pencil'

repeats words e.g. 'I...I...I want...'

stretches out sounds in words e.g. 'I waaaaaant a pencil'

gets stuck on a word where no sound comes out.

shows tension when talking e.g. facial grimaces, tapping leg in an effort to get their words out, looking away, taking an effortful or frequent breath.

avoids certain words they predict they will stammer on

avoids situations that involve talking such as avoiding volunteering to contribute to class discussions or answer questions.

What you can try:

- Give the student time to talk. Do not finish off their words or sentences.
- Avoid telling the student what to do when they stammer (e.g. stop, slow down, take a breath).
- Avoid keeping the student waiting too long for their turn to talk.
- Show the student there is no rush by slowing down your own talking.
- Plan time for the student to talk with others in 1:1 or small groups.
- Talk to the student about their stammer and ask what helps them participate.
- Talk to Parent Carers about any challenges shared.
- Build confidence and self-esteem through praise and celebrating effort.
- Encourage open discussion about teasing and bullying.
- Consider reasonable adjustments for oral exams, referring to information at Stammer.org.