

Speech, Language and Communication

What you might see:

You might see a child who:

does not talk in class/school

only talks to certain people in school

gives limited responses in some situations

Anxiety around talking

What you can try:

- Avoid putting pressure on the student to talk.
- Reassure the child that they will not be made to talk e.g. 'it's okay if you can't talk right now... can you show me instead?'
- Comment rather than ask questions when talking to the student.
- Encourage and accept all forms of communication e.g. gesture, drawing, symbols, writing.
- Provide alternative ways to take part e.g. communication board, whiteboard.
- Identify a trusted member of staff to build rapport.