



ICAN

helps children
communicate

Early

Talk Boost

Early Talk Boost narrows
the gap between 3-4 year
olds with delayed language
and their peers

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What is Early Talk Boost?

Early Talk Boost is a targeted intervention, delivered by a trained early years practitioner to a group of up to eight children aged 3-4 years old that have delayed language. The intervention helps to boost their language skills to help narrow the gap between them and their peers.

The impact of Early Talk Boost

Early Talk Boost has been developed by I CAN specialists and piloted in 3 areas.

Evaluation showed that after *Early Talk Boost*, children make statistically significant progress in their early language. On average they make 6 months progress after a nine week intervention helping them to catch up with other children their age. This is twice the amount of progress of children not having the intervention.

Week 1 / Learning to listen / Resources

Resources

Week 1: Session 1

Activity	Focus	Resources needed
Planning	Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning board (1) Tiger puppet
Activity 1 How do we listen? Using our eyes and looking Ready, steady, listen!	Attention and listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Looking card (2) Good Listening card (3) Bearbug or bat
Activity 2 Ready, steady, listen!	Attention and listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bubbles-blowing kit Good Looking card (2) Good Listening card (3) Song card Head (7)
Song Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes!	Singing	
Story Helo	Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book: Helo Tiger puppet Good Looking card (2) Good Listening card (3) Jake card (5) Tiger card (8)

© Early Talk Boost Intervention Manual

Week 1 / Learning to listen / Overview

Attention and listening

Week 1: Learning to listen

Overview
The main focus for Week 1 is Attention and listening (the continue file, Week 2). Children need to be able to focus and to tune in to sounds and what's happening around them to help them listen to what people are saying. Often children who struggle with language find it difficult to tune in and focus.

Week 1 introduces the Planning board, showing the four parts of each session.

Activity 1

Activity 2

Song

Story

This is used to outline to the children what will happen in every session and to review the session at the end.

Week 1 looks at the parts of our bodies we use to show we are listening, and focuses on listening in different ways. This is because we often ask children to listen without explaining to them how to listen and what they need to do. The aim of Week 1 is to make it really clear how we listen and also to break it up as a skill and something we can learn. This is why we suggest that you give lots of praise about specific listening skills so that children know what they are doing well.

Week 1 also introduces the main characters Jake and Topsy, who feature in the eight story books and throughout the intervention. You can introduce the Topsy the Tiger puppet so that all the children can say

Week 5 / Action events / Session 1

Activity 1

What do we do with this?

... of this game is for children to think about what we do with things. This is to help them to think about the different objects and actions associated with them.

Usually when children are starting to speak they start with the objects around them, and then move on to action words.

How to do it

- You will need your bag with everyday objects in it, e.g.
 - Cup
 - Heartnut
 - Foot/brain/footsie
 - Song
 - Washcloth/hoopie
 - Bottle of water
 - Book
 - Food items (empty food packets).
- Try and have at least eight items so that everyone can have a turn.
- Say to the children: 'I've got something special in my bag. What can we use with it?'
 - Put one of the objects to put their hand in.
- See if they can tell you what the object is from feeling it.
 - Then put out the object and ask: 'What do we do with that?'
 - If they don't know then say the words to them, e.g. 'We drink (just, wash, etc) with this.'
- Encourage the children to say the words, as you do in Week 3, also ask them to show you the word, i.e. act it out.

Talking about it

- Talk with the children, saying that we've looked at what we do with things we use every day. We've also talked about what we can do, what we need with, etc.

Too hard?

- See if the children can show you what to do with the object and act it out. Then you can add the language to what they're doing.

Too easy?

- Put the word in a longer sentence, e.g. 'We drink from the cup.'



Early Talk Boost training

Early Talk Boost training is for early years practitioners working with groups of 3-4 year olds in early years settings.

What will I learn?

The training will give participants the skills and knowledge to understand the rationale behind *Early Talk Boost*, identify appropriate children, measure their progress and deliver the intervention successfully.

How is this training delivered?

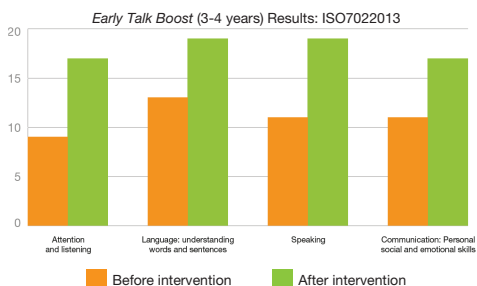
Early Talk Boost is a one day course delivered in your work place.

If you are a small setting you might wish to consider grouping your staff together with other settings for the training and sharing the costs between yourselves.

How much does *Early Talk Boost* cost?

Receive training from an I CAN Advisor or one of our team of Licensed Tutors. Order the intervention materials from I CAN at a cost of **£500** per set of intervention materials + the cost of the Licensed Tutor delivering your training. Licensed Tutor fees vary. Additional participant books cost £20 each. To find your nearest Licensee visit: www.ican.org.uk/training-licensing/find-a-tutor/

Each *Early Talk Boost* intervention pack includes; Participant Book, Intervention Manual, Parent Workshop materials, Tracker Tool, Toolkit of toys, puppets and musical instruments and 10 x 8 Jake and Tizzy story books.



'The results have been fantastic, we've seen children who took part in the 9 week intervention improve their attention and listening skills greatly.' *Nursery Manager, Parish Nursery*

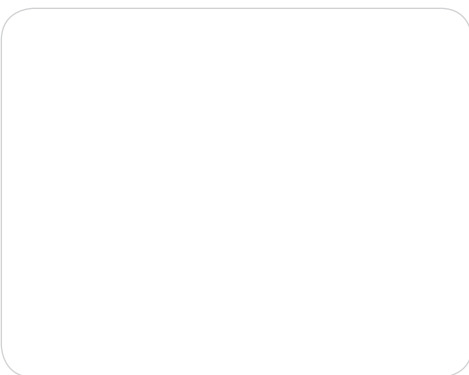
For more information contact I CAN today:

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The early years pupil premium (EYPP) provides opportunities for settings to enable children to move closer to fulfilling their potential. *Early Talk Boost* allows settings to evidence the impact of their EYPP spend.



Thanks to funding from UBS Optimus Foundation

Ofsted recognise that the most successful settings have a focus on developing skilled staff. *Early Talk Boost* helps create a skilled workforce and knowledgeable parents.

**Early
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