



Talk Boost KS2 FAQ document

General

What is *Talk Boost KS2*?

Talk Boost KS2 is a targeted intervention for children in Years 3, 4 and 5 (7-10 year olds) who have delayed language development, aiming to boost their language skills helping them to catch up with their peers.

It consists of small group sessions three times a week for eight weeks, run by trained teaching assistants. There are additional whole class activities delivered by teachers and home based tasks. Each child has a Communication Detective Notebook as a permanent reminder of their learning.

It comes with a Tracker tool which allows before and after measures to be taken to show progress.

Talk Boost KS2 covers the areas of language and communication which are key skills for children to support them to access the curriculum, to use their language to interact in the classroom and to form and maintain friendships.

What evidence is there to show that *Talk Boost KS2* works?

Talk Boost KS2 was trialled in a carefully designed study with active and comparison groups. The evaluation showed that after eight weeks of running the intervention children made significant progress in language and communication, with 67% catching up with their peers in understanding language. Learning in the classroom was easier; children joined in more, took part in discussions more and listened more carefully. Questionnaires used with parents showed that 85% saw that their children's language skills had improved. A report on the evaluation will be available shortly.

Which children will benefit from *Talk Boost KS2*?

Talk Boost KS2 is for children whose language and communication skills are developing typically but are below what is expected for their age. The children should not be receiving any specialist support or have any other Special Educational Needs, and should have the potential to catch up with their peers.

The *Talk Boost KS2* trials included children with English as an Additional Language (EAL) but not enough for us to analyse their results separately. The intervention, although not specifically designed as an EAL resource, provides language-rich activities that will support all children's language development.

Can *Talk Boost KS2* be used with SEN children?

We do not recommend *Talk Boost KS2* for children with SEN because the pace and design of activities was not designed with their needs in mind. However, with appropriate Speech and Language Therapy support, it might be possible to adapt the materials. You would not get the same rate of progress for this group of children.



Does this programme share information with parents?

Each child chosen by the school to take part in *Talk Boost KS2* will be given homework tasks to be shared with parents and carers. These tasks involve 'talking' activities and 'Top Tips' to inform parents about supporting effective communication development at school and at home. Homework tasks are set by the teacher for the whole class with appropriate differentiation.

What is the Talk Boost KS2 Tracker?

The ***Talk Boost KS2 Tracker*** is a tool to check children's communication and language development against what is known to be typical in years 3 and 4 (ages 7-9) and years 5 and 6 (ages 9-11). If repeated over time it can also be used to show progress. The Tracker has been validated against other measures, but it has not been standardised and does not replace formal testing using standardised assessments or more specialist assessment by a Speech and Language Therapist.

The Tracker covers the most important areas of language and communication relating to functional use of language, particularly in the classroom. These language and communication skills are important as they reflect children's personal, social and emotional development, including their ability to be independent, self sufficient and make relationships. All these skills are important for children to learn in school.

There is an online tracker system which will analyse the results and produce a report which can be printed off for use in school. Using this online scoring system will allow I CAN to collect anonymous data on the results from all the schools using *Talk Boost KS2* so that we can continue to measure its effectiveness over time.

Why does the tracker cover Year 6 when the intervention doesn't?

There are two age groups covered by the Tracker: 'Year 3 and 4' and 'Year 5 and 6'.

The intervention has been written and piloted in Years 3, 4 and 5. There may be some schools who wish to use the materials in Year 6 (which we did not evaluate). If they do then they can track progress on the Tracker. This will enable us to gather some data on how effective it is with this age group.

Should I use the *Talk Boost KS2 Tracker* or SLC Progression Tool to measure progress?

Both the *Talk Boost KS2 Tracker* and the SLC Progression Tools can be used to measure progress. However the *Talk Boost KS2 Tracker* is aligned to the programme and considers the areas of language and communication focused on in the intervention. It has a scoring range within the amber section which enables the user to more accurately monitor a child's progress over time. Additionally, the Tracker is available online, so you can record, monitor, download and print your results.



What is the difference between *Talk Boost KS1* and *Talk Boost KS2*?

Talk Boost KS1 is appropriate for use with children in Reception and KS1 classes – from ages 4-7 yrs. *TBKS1* covers the essential areas of language and communication for this age group with an emphasis on catching up on the skills children should have in Reception and KS1. *TBKS2* focuses on the skills children need for KS2 which has a much higher level of language with more complex demands on children's understanding and use of language. In *TBKS2* the focus is on children developing awareness of the communication skills they need and on learning strategies to help them become Communication Detectives. *Talk Boost KS2* is appropriate for children in years 3-5 (7-10yrs).

What is the difference between *Talk Boost KS2* and *Primary Talk*?

Talk Boost KS2 is an intervention for 4 children, 7-10 year olds, working in a small group. Primary Talk is a whole school approach combining training, development and outcome measurements to ensure schools are either Supporting Communication or Enhancing Communication across the whole school. *Talk Boost KS1* and *Talk Boost KS2* can be used as part of a whole school approach to support all children's speech, language and communication skills.

Training

What training is required to deliver *Talk Boost TBKS2*?

Teaching assistants and teachers must attend one day's *Talk Boost KS2* training to give them the skills and knowledge they require to understand the rationale behind *Talk Boost KS2*, identify appropriate children, measure their progress and deliver the intervention.

What is the cost of *Talk Boost KS2*?

There are two options

Option One

Training can be delivered by an I CAN Communication Advisor. Each training session costs £700 + VAT plus £480 for each TA/Teacher pair who receive a *Talk Boost KS2* Intervention Pack. This pack consists of an Intervention Manual, Organiser Box, Teacher Manual, Tracker, 12 Communication Detective Notebooks and 2 Participant Books.

Option Two

We also have a regional team of Licensed Tutors who deliver *Talk Boost KS2* training. The Intervention pack includes the Intervention Manual, Organiser Box, Teacher Manual, Tracker, 12 Communication Detective Notebooks and 2 Participant Books and is purchased from I CAN at a cost of £480 per TA/Teacher pair + the cost of the Licensed Tutor delivering your training. Prices vary for training but this option usually works out cheaper than option one. Find your local Licensed Tutor [here](#).



Who can be trained in *Talk Boost KS2*?

Talk Boost KS2 training is for teachers and TAs working with children in Years 3, 4 and 5.

How long does *Talk Boost KS2* training take?

The training takes approximately 6 hours, including breaks.

What are the minimum/maximum numbers of people allowed to be trained in one session?

Training is to TA and teacher pairs. The maximum is 20 people, for I CAN direct delivery the minimum is 3 pairs (6 people).

Where is *Talk Boost KS2* training held?

Talk Boost KS2 training can be delivered in the school which purchases it or schools can link up to purchase training with one school hosting the training day.

Do all training pairs have to be from the same school or can schools link up and be trained together?

Yes – if you are a small school you can join with other schools for the training and share the costs between yourselves.

I CAN licensed *Talk Boost KS2* tutors may make their own arrangements.

Can school staff trained in the *Talk Boost KS2* intervention train other school staff?

No, training in *Talk Boost KS2* can only be delivered by I CAN Communication Advisors or by I CAN Licensed *Talk Boost* tutors. This is because it is an evidenced intervention and fidelity to the programme is essential in order to maintain the good results.

Resources

How are *Talk Boost KS2* resources ordered?

Talk Boost KS2 resources can be ordered by completing the [Resource Order Form](#) and emailing it to talkboostks2@ican.org.uk, faxing it to 0845 225 4072, or calling 0208 843 2515.

Are there electronic copies of the Tracker Tools?

Yes - copies of the *Talk Boost KS2* Tracker (Years 3-4 and Years 5-6) can be downloaded from www.talkboostks2tracker.org.uk



Do we need to send the Tracker data we collect to I CAN?

There is an online version of the scoring for the Tracker available at www.talkboostks2tracker.org.uk

You need to follow the instructions to register and set up your school's details. By entering your group's data you will be able to obtain a report showing your pupils' progress. The reports can be used as evidence for governing bodies and Ofsted of the outcome of the intervention and are especially useful where funding (such as Pupil Premium) has been used to purchase *Talk Boost KS2*.

Using this online scoring system will allow I CAN to collect anonymous data on the results from all the schools using *Talk Boost KS2* so that we can continue to measure its effectiveness over time.

Can I just buy the resources without the training?

No – you must be trained to use the *Talk Boost KS2* intervention.

Can additional staff attend *Talk Boost KS2* training without purchasing the starter pack?

Guidelines on the number of *Talk Boost KS2* Starter Packs required are as follows:

- One kit per training pair (Teacher/TA). Where another TA is working with the same year group of children, they can attend the *Talk Boost KS2* practitioner training, and share the same kit to deliver the intervention. They need to buy another Participant Book for the training.
- Where a school wants multiple groups of children to receive *Talk Boost KS2* across year groups it is important that the school has a kit for each group so that the quality of the delivery of the intervention is not compromised. Further (T-TA) training pairs will also need to receive practitioner training in this instance.
- All participants attending *Talk Boost KS2* practitioner training must have a copy of the Participant Book.

Licensed Tutors

Is the programme only delivered by I CAN trainers or can SLTs become local trainers?

Speech and Language Therapists and educationalists can become licensed to deliver *Talk Boost KS2* training. You will need to complete an application form and show that you meet the necessary competencies.

What are the costs of becoming a Licensed Tutor?

The cost of becoming a *Talk Boost KS2* Licensed Tutor training, inclusive of resources is £420. You will also need to pay an annual licence fee of £60 (including VAT). This fee is charged with your training cost and payable thereafter yearly. This covers all I CAN licences that you hold.



Where is Talk Boost KS2 Licensed Tutor training held?

There are courses run at I CAN's central office in London or we can deliver the training locally if you have 6 members of staff and can provide a venue.

How do trained staff access the evaluation form and certificate?

To access the course evaluation form, trained staff should complete the following process:

- go to www.ican.org.uk/validation
- create an account (if you already have an account please login)
- you will receive an automated email with a link
- click on the link to create a password
- save the password
- click on the 'evaluate a course' link which you will find on the left hand side of the page and you will be presented with a list of courses
- click on the 'relevant' course link

Upon completion of the evaluation form you will be sent a certificate to print.