

NORTH  
WEST  
DRAMA

peoplescape  
theatre

Information for Schools

# speech bubbles

Drama for communication,  
confidence and well-being

**Evidence collected by the Communication Trust suggests that, in some areas, as many as 50% of children are starting school with a speech, language and communication need (SLCN). Teachers report that as well as teaching reading and writing, they increasingly have to teach KS1 children to speak and to play.**

Those with the greatest clinical need can be referred to specialist Speech and Language Therapy, but there are large numbers of children who are working **below the SLT threshold** who are still in need of intervention. Speech Bubbles provides a **proven** and **cost-effective** way to make sure that children develop the communication skills needed for the KS1 classroom.

The programme was developed through closing working with schools and Speech and Language Therapists. This unique approach encourages children to tell, act out and reflect on their own stories. Speech Bubbles practitioners use a thoroughly proven structure and their expert knowledge of **whole body communication** to promote children's **communication, confidence** and **well-being**. Speech Bubbles sessions are a different kind of experience to a clinical intervention, as the practitioners work to create a space which is **collaborative, playful** and **fun**. We're delighted that we are now able to offer a slightly shorter version of the full project through the '**Bounce Back**' programme (see the next page for more information).

Over the course of the project, referred KS1 pupils take part in carefully planned and structured drama sessions, delivered weekly by a Speech Bubbles drama practitioner alongside a member of school staff (usually a teaching assistant). We specifically ask schools to refer children who:

- ❑ **Lack confidence in communicating** (including children who are selectively mute and with English as an additional language)
- ❑ **Have difficulty organising their thoughts and then communicating them** (including children you may not respond appropriately to what is being said)
- ❑ **Have poor attention and poor listening** (including children with a low level of engagement with class-work and difficulty developing positive peer-to-peer relationships)



**In 2020/21:**

**94% of participating children improved in speaking, listening and learning.**

**100% improved in emotional conduct and behaviour.**



# Why speech bubbles?

*It supports children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development*

*It effectively supports children who are new to English and those with selective mutism*

*It features certified CPD for teaching and support staff*

*Provides evidence of embedded arts and culture for Artsmark*

*It develops communication skills, which are the foundations of literacy*

Schools can choose from two versions of the programme:

- **Full Project** (24 sessions across the school year for two groups of 10 children)
- **Bounce Back** (18 sessions across Spring/Summer terms for two groups of 8 children)

All participating schools receive:

- ▶ Access to a comprehensive set of resources, including the Speech Bubbles Resource Pack
- ▶ Full day CPD certified induction training for two members of staff
- ▶ Half-day CPD certified collaborative learning CPD session midway through the project
- ▶ At least 1 open session for parents/ carers to attend
- ▶ An 1.5hr INSET session for your KS1 staff on 'Communication Friendly Classrooms'
- ▶ A support visit from Speech Bubbles during the programme
- ▶ An impact report on pupil progress produced via our online monitoring system
- ▶ Half-day end of year practical evaluation session for two members of school staff

To find out more, including the cost of the project, please contact the organisation who delivers Speech Bubbles in your area (more information is on the next page).

**"The analysis suggests that Speech Bubbles is a low cost intervention that delivers good value for money"**

*Ernst and Young, 2018*

## Ready to become a **speech bubbles** school?

Speech Bubbles is delivered in South East England and Greater Manchester by a network of partner theatre companies. For more information on local offers go to: [speechbubbles.org.uk/contact](https://speechbubbles.org.uk/contact)

Or you can email:

**Lizzie Kennedy**, *Speech Bubbles CIO*  
[lizzie@speechbubbles.org.uk](mailto:lizzie@speechbubbles.org.uk)

If you're a primary school in Manchester, Salford, Trafford, Stockport or Tameside then we're looking forward to hearing from you:

Schools in *Manchester* should contact:  
**Emily Capstick**, *Peoplescape Theatre*  
[emily@peoplescapetheatre.co.uk](mailto:emily@peoplescapetheatre.co.uk)



Schools in *Salford, Trafford, Stockport or Tameside* should contact:

**Matt Wardle**, *North West Drama*  
[matt@northwestdramaservices.co.uk](mailto:matt@northwestdramaservices.co.uk)



Schools in *Rochdale* should contact:  
**Gilly Baskeyfield**, *M6 Theatre*  
[gilly@m6theatre.co.uk](mailto:gilly@m6theatre.co.uk)

Schools in *Oldham* should contact:  
**Craig Harris**, *Oldham Theatre Workshop*  
[craig.harris@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:craig.harris@oldham.gov.uk)