Referral criteria for understanding, talking, and communication and interaction for children aged 3;0 to 3;5

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| Age3;0-3;5 | Communication and Interaction | Understanding | Talking | Pronunciation |
| **No cause for concern** | [ ]  Can listen to slightly longer stories[ ]  Can express emotions [ ]  Starting to play make- believe games e.g. shops[ ]  Starting to play more with other children[ ]  May need adult help to stop and listen to an instruction. Gradually more able to pause their activity to listen to an adult | [ ]  Understands longer sentences and instructions with 3 key words e.g. put the cup under the table[ ]  Understands size, colour and position words[ ]  Answers ‘who’, ‘where’ and ‘what’ questions | [ ]  Uses 3 to 4 word sentences[ ]  Beginning to use grammatical word endings e.g. plural cats[ ]  Beginning to ask questions[ ]  Uses a range of verbs/action words[ ]  Describes past and present events | [ ]  Saying ‘s’ as ‘th’[ ]  Saying ‘ch’ and ‘j’ as ‘t’ or ‘d’  [ ]  Simplifying 2 consonants together them to 1 sound e.g. ‘nake’ for ‘snake’[ ]  Saying ‘k’ and ‘g’ as ‘t’ and ‘d’ e.g. ‘tat’ for ‘cat’[ ]  May not yet use ‘r’, ‘l’, ‘y’ and ‘th’ |
| **Monitor and follow up in 3 months if the child:** | [ ]  Shows some pretend play e.g. acting out common routines with teddy e.g. feed teddy, put teddy to bed[ ]  Attends and listens to adult directed activities but only for a short time | [ ]  Follows instructions with 2 key words (e.g. ‘give the apple to teddy’) and is beginning to follow instructions with 3 key words[ ]  Not yet consistently understanding ‘who’, ‘where’ and ‘what’ questions | [ ]  Can join at least 2 words together in a short sentence [ ]  Doesn’t use long sentences but is learning new words regularly | [ ]   |
| **Refer to SLT if the child:** | [ ]  Has little/no pretend play[ ]  Doesn’t share interest with an adult[ ]  Has poor eye-contact[ ]  Has little interest in other children[ ]  Displays unusual or overly repetitive play/behaviours | [ ]  Does not follow simple instructions[ ]  Does not understand sentences with 2 key words when focused | [ ]  Few or no 2 word combinations[ ]  Demonstrates awareness of or frustration with communication difficulties | [ ]  Has pronunciation errors other than the above[ ]  stammers and I am concerned |