Referral criteria for understanding, talking, and communication and interaction for children aged 4

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| Age4;0-4;11 | Communication and Interaction | Understanding | Talking | Pronunciation |
| **No cause for concern** | [ ]  Able to pause their activity to listen to an adult [ ]  Beginning to be able to listen to spoken instructions without having to stop what they are doing [ ]  Beginning to play cooperatively with other children and able to share toys[ ]  Takes turns with others [ ]  Enjoys make-believe play activities | [ ]  Understands instructions with 4 key words when focused [ ]  Understands questions about past and future events [ ]  Can follow instructions given to a group of children | [ ]  Uses sentences with some grammatical immaturities (e.g. ‘goed’ instead of ‘went’)[ ]  Tells stories by connecting ideas and event.[ ]  Uses some joining words to link sentences e.g. and, because. | [ ]  Saying ‘s’ as ‘th’ [ ]  saying ‘ch’ and ‘j’ sounds as ‘t’ or ‘d’  [ ]  Simplifying 2 consonants together them to 1 sound e.g. ‘nake’ for ‘snake’[ ]  May not yet use ‘r’, ‘l’, ‘y’ and ‘th’ |
| **Monitor and follow up in 3 months if the child:** | [ ]  Struggles to take turns in group activities. | [ ]  Is starting to understand longer instructions with repetitions and prompts[ ]  Understands a range of basic concepts e.g. size and position | [ ]  Uses phrases but sometimes mixes up the order of words |  |
| **Refer to SLT if the child:** | [ ]  If you are seeking support for social communication/ autism please use the social communication/ autism checklist | [ ]  Does not understand simple conversations[ ]  Does not understand basic concepts e.g. size and position[ ]  Often does not respond appropriately to longer questions and instructions | [ ]  Is only using 3–4 word sentences [ ]  Uses unusual word order and/or grammar[ ]  Demonstrates awareness/frustration of communication difficulties | [ ]  Has pronunciation errors other than the above[ ]  Is difficult to understand when talking[ ]  stammers and I am concerned |