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

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| Age  4;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 |