

## A creative intervention to support KS1 children with SLCN

### What is Speech Bubbles?

Speech Bubbles is an evidence based drama intervention supporting children's communication skills, confidence and wellbeing. Over a series of weekly sessions which focus on storytelling and communication, skilled practitioners support the social, emotional and academic development of children referred to the programme...(Continues on page 2)



### Who is it Speech Bubbles for?

The programme supports KS1 children with identified communication needs affecting their receptive and expressive language, confidence and wellbeing. Small groups of children explore storytelling through playful exercises which support the development of expression, turn taking and narrative competence...(Continues on page 3)

### Why is Speech Bubbles Important?

In some areas of the UK more than 50% of children are starting school with SLCN yet only a small percentage of these children qualify for one-to-one therapeutic interventions. Children with unmet communication needs and delays or disorders can struggle to succeed in school environments and the wider world. For many children Speech Bubbles is an essential intervention which aids their ability to learn, connect and thrive...(Continues on page 4)



“Speech Bubbles is the best day of my life!”  
– Year 1 child

## The Speech Bubbles Approach

Speech Bubbles was developed by London Bubble Theatre Company alongside Speech and Language Therapists and SENCo school staff. The approach has been refined and developed and is now a national franchise, reaching 9200 children since 2009. Kazzum has been delivering Speech Bubbles in Newham schools since 2018.

We have expert knowledge of whole-body communication and play, providing a predictable structure with clear boundaries to create an engaging and creative environment. Over the 24 weeks of the programme children’s stories are collected verbatim and retold using the ‘story square’ drama technique. Sessions are then evaluated every week to track student progress in receptive language, turn taking and expressive skills.

### What included in the ‘Full Programme’

- 1 Speech Bubbles Practitioner for 48 sessions delivered over 24 weeks (2 x 45 minute sessions per week) between September -July
- 1 Full day CPD certified induction training up to 2 members of staff
- 1 Half-day end of year evaluation session for up to 2 members of staff
  - Half-way CPD certified collaborative learning afternoon
  - An open parent sessions
  - Introductory INSET for KS1 staff

### School requirements

- 20 identified KS1 children split into 2 groups of 10
- 1 consistent TA or equivalent Staff to join every weekly session and 1 full day induction and 1 half day evaluation
- SENCo time to help with referrals and online monitoring system

**Cost: £3982**

## Who is it for?

Children in KS1 who:

### Lack confidence in communicating:

This includes children who are selectively mute and those with English as an additional language.

### Have difficulty organising thoughts and then communicating them:

This includes children who may need additional processing time and / or do not respond appropriately to what is being said.

### Have poor attention, poor listening:

This includes children with a low level of engagement with classwork and difficulty developing positive peer to peer relationships.

Kazzum Arts will collaborate with your school staff to ensure effective referrals to the programme.

“The session is a great way to learn how to communicate, share and listen in a fun way. It would benefit ALL children!” - *Parent*

## What are the Benefits?

Supports oracy and listening skills

Supports children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Develops communication skills; the foundations of literacy

Effective support for children with EAL and selective mutism

Provides evidence of embedded arts and culture for Artsmark

Develops teaching and supports staff

“The analysis suggests that Speech Bubbles is a low-cost intervention that delivers very good value for money.” - Ernst and Young, 2017

### **Evidence of Impact**

The Speech Bubbles Programme is an evidence based and cost-effective way to make sure that children develop the communication skills needed for the KS1 classroom and beyond.

In 2018 Dr Heather Price’s Psychosocial Research Group at UEL concluded: ‘Children receiving the intervention made better progress than a ‘control’ group of Key Stage One children from the same schools...the progress made lifted the children’s performance out of categories that would indicate cause for concern in relation to speech and language development.’

In **2020-2021** teacher reports on **1029** individual children

**80%** showed improvements in emotion behaviour and conduct behaviour  
**77%** showed improvements in speaking, listening and learning

‘Speech Bubbles is the highlight of our student’s (and the teacher’s!) week. It has become a really special time for the children where they are able to express themselves and take risks in a non-judgemental and fun environment. I have seen many of the children make wonderful progress since they have started the sessions. Thank you Speech Bubbles!’ - Teacher

“I love being in Speech Bubbles. It is the high point of my week; my confidence has really grown.” - Teaching Assistant

## About Kazzum

Kazzum is a participatory arts organisation with a 34-year history of providing young people with opportunities to explore creative expression and agency through multidisciplinary arts activities. Our work uses creativity to enable children and young people who have been impacted by trauma and adversity to feel seen, heard and valued.

If you would like any more information about Kazzum please visit [www.kazzum.org](http://www.kazzum.org)

Or the Speech Bubbles programme please visit [www.speechbubbles.org.uk](http://www.speechbubbles.org.uk).



If you are a primary school based in Newham, Camden or Waltham Forest and want to find out more about The Speech Bubbles programme please contact Tara Postma at Kazzum Arts: [tara@kazzum.org](mailto:tara@kazzum.org)

