



## A creative intervention to support KS1 children with SLCN



### About Speech Bubbles

Kazzum are working with the University of East London as a Speech Bubbles delivery partner across the London borough of Newham. Speech Bubbles is a primary school drama intervention supporting children's communication skills, confidence and wellbeing.

### The Problem

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

Those in 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 analysis suggests that Speech Bubbles is a low-cost intervention that delivers very good value for money'* EY (Ernst and Young) 2017

### The Speech Bubbles Approach

Speech Bubbles was developed by London Bubble **Theatre Artists** working with Speech and Language Therapists and schools. The 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 **wellbeing**. Speech Bubbles sessions are a different kind of experience to a clinical intervention, practitioners work to create a space which is **collaborative, playful** and **fun**.

## What's Included?

- Full day CPD certified induction training for two members of staff.
- Speech Bubbles Practitioner for 24 weekly sessions for two groups of 10 children.
- All resources.
- Half-way CPD certified collaborative learning afternoon.
- 2 open parent sessions.
- Annual impact report produced on our online monitoring system.
- Introductory INSET for KS1 staff.
- Half-day end of year practical evaluation session for two members of school staff.

## 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 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 relations.

## What are the Benefits?



## Evidence of Impact

Speech Bubbles runs in schools across the country and has been the subject of numerous research projects. Findings include:

In 2016-2017, 88% of referred children showed improvement in their learning, speaking and listening. 90% of referred children showed improvement in their emotional behaviour and conduct behaviour.

### **National evaluation of class teachers' pre and post assessments.**

"The children receiving the intervention made better progress than a 'control' group in... understanding spoken language; understanding and using vocabulary; sentence building; storytelling and narrative and social interaction."

"Their lively approach to these questions, as much as the scores they obtained, was suggestive of a change in the way they viewed themselves. They appeared as more competent, storytelling subjects with a perspective on their personal worlds."

### **Dr Heather Price, Psychosocial Studies Research Group, UEL. Comparison Group Study 2017.**

"Speech Bubbles offers what appears to be a highly effective and sustainable means of helping children suffering poor social, emotional and educational wellbeing because of their difficulties with communication... It reminds us that a

focus on children's wellbeing in school generates increased social, behavioural and educational capital cheaply and effectively."

(Teaching Assistants working on Speech Bubbles) "reported enhanced job satisfaction, new roles in the school, increased personal confidence and capacity."

**Evaluation of Speech Bubbles by Dr Jonathan Barnes, Sidney de Haan Research Institute, Canterbury Christchurch University. 2015.**

The evidence has achieved Standard 2 validation by Project Oracle, Children and Youth Evidence Hub.

### **The Cost to Schools**

It costs £5500 to run Speech Bubbles for a year, we fundraise to reduce the cost to schools. In 2018/2019 the cost to schools will be £3750 That's the equivalent of **£7.81 per child** per session.

**If you are a primary school based in Newham and you want to find out more, or to book the programme please contact Alex: [alex@kazzum.org](mailto:alex@kazzum.org) / 020 7749 1119**

### **About Kazzum**

Kazzum is a participatory arts organization with a **29-year history** of providing young people with **unique, inclusive** and **multidisciplinary** arts projects. Our work enables the creativity of children and young people at times in their lives when they are most isolated, vulnerable or at risk. Kazzum wants every young person to reach their **creative potential**.

If you would like any more information about the work of London Bubble Theatre company and the Speech Bubbles programme please visit [www.speechbubbles.org.uk](http://www.speechbubbles.org.uk).

**'Speech Bubbles is the best day of my life!'**

**Year 1 child**

**'I love being in Speech Bubbles it is the high point of my week, my confidence has really grown.'**

**Teaching Assistant**

**'She has got us all doing Speech Bubbles at home now!'**

**Parent**

