



**Briefing to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on
Oracy,
Speak for Change report**
**prepared for the
28.04.21**

launched on

Every year in the autumn term, schools using the **Infant Language Link** support package assess about 50,000 Reception children for their understanding of the language used in the classroom.

With many schools undertaking universal screening with our assessments and the numbers captured being about **10% of the Reception population**, SL Multimedia is well placed to look at overall trends.

We note that:

- **There is a considerable level of need recorded every year in the least advantaged areas** (areas falling in the first four deciles of the Index of Multiple Deprivation). This equates to at least 25% of all children in these groups still needing some help with language by the end of the autumn term.
- **The proportion of children with language needs identified by our assessment on starting school, increased by 20 to 25% in September 2020 compared to the year before.**
- **Our provisional figures indicate that children going into year 1 in autumn 2020 were more likely to still require additional support with language than in previous years.**

At the start of the autumn 2020 term, we reported headline figures of a 20 to 25% increase in the proportion of pupils' results in our Red band. (The Red band approximates to scores less than the 6th percentile). Now we are able to put together this first look at our data, an in-depth analysis will follow later.

Trends since 2017 are shown, which highlight the **increased level of need recorded in the 2020 autumn term.**

In Discussion 1, All UK Data, proportions of pupils in each of the Infant Language Link results bands (from all schools attempting universal screening) are given for each month and year. In Discussion 2, Quintile Comparison, these are then broken down by quintile (combined decile) of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. This shows the considerable level of need recorded every year within the first two quintiles across the entire autumn term: by the end of term, within these quintiles, between one in four and one in three pupils on average still require support with their understanding of language. This is excluding pupils recorded as having English as an additional language (EAL).

It is worth noting that these results are from schools aware of the importance of language, engaged enough to perform universal screening and consequently likely to have some strategies in place to address shortcomings which would affect access to education.

SL Multimedia's full report is available to [read here](#).

© Copyright Speech Link Multimedia Ltd 2020-2021 office2@speechlink.co.uk
SL Multimedia is a trading style of Speech Link Multimedia Ltd 50000 Assessments v2.5
(29-03-2021)