

101 EAL Conversations – sample card



Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

A meeting with the parents of a newly arrived child from Bulgaria in Year 2 reveals that the child is only able to speak a little Bulgarian – single words and short phrases only, no full sentences. His speech is also very unclear and even his parents sometimes find it hard to understand what he is saying. The child speaks no English at all. The SENDCo is considering a referral to the Speech and Language Therapy Service.

Would this be appropriate?

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Yes. There are clearly difficulties in the child's first language which are hindering his ability to communicate even with people who know him well. It is likely that these difficulties with speech and language will also be present in his English when it develops. A referral to the Speech and Language Therapy Service is therefore appropriate.

In addition, it would be helpful to find out about his previous educational background and early language development in Bulgarian. Consider also the parents' need for support in understanding the difficulties that their child is experiencing and with how they can support his language development at home.