



## Speech and Language Therapy Blank level 4

The Blank model separates questions and directions into four levels (see further information below). They show how understanding of abstract language develops for children.

### **Why use Blank Levels?**

- To help adults change their language so that the child understands what they are being asked
- To encourage the development of verbal reasoning skills (e.g. 'what do you draw with?', 'what might happen next?')
- To help set appropriate language targets

### **Blank Level 4**

At this level the child is required to reason and justify why an event has occurred. Remember not to ask too many questions i.e. aim to **give four comments to every question** that you ask.

Help the child to answer questions at level four by using cueing techniques:

- Sentence completion – give the answer sentence for the child to complete e.g. 'Why is he worried? He's worried because he's.....' If the child does not complete the sentence, do so for them after you have paused.
- Forced alternatives – give the child two alternatives e.g. "Why has he got an umbrella? Because it's raining or because it's windy?"

At Blank level four the child should be able to problem solve, justify and make inferences.

Ask the child to solve problems in real everyday situations e.g. "Why are your trousers muddy?"

Next ask the child to solve problems from somebody else's perspective in real situations then in pictures e.g. It's Owen's birthday, why is he excited?

Encourage the child to

- justify why a decision was made e.g. "Why did you sharpen your pencil?", "Why are you wearing an apron?"
- make inferences from pictures e.g. "How do we know the boy is sad?" "How can you tell that Mrs Smith doesn't like coffee?"
- explain how items are different or similar e.g. "How are the giraffe and the elephant similar?"
- justify a prediction e.g. "Why will he have a bath?"

Praise any attempt to provide a justification even if it is not what you expected him to say.



SPA Number: 01234 310163 / 310712

Email: [ccs.beds.childrens.slt.admin@nhs.net](mailto:ccs.beds.childrens.slt.admin@nhs.net)

Web: [www.childspeechbedfordshire.nhs.uk](http://www.childspeechbedfordshire.nhs.uk)

