

Teachers, Friends and Jannies

What can we learn about
Communication Difficulties
in Young People with SEBN?

Introduction

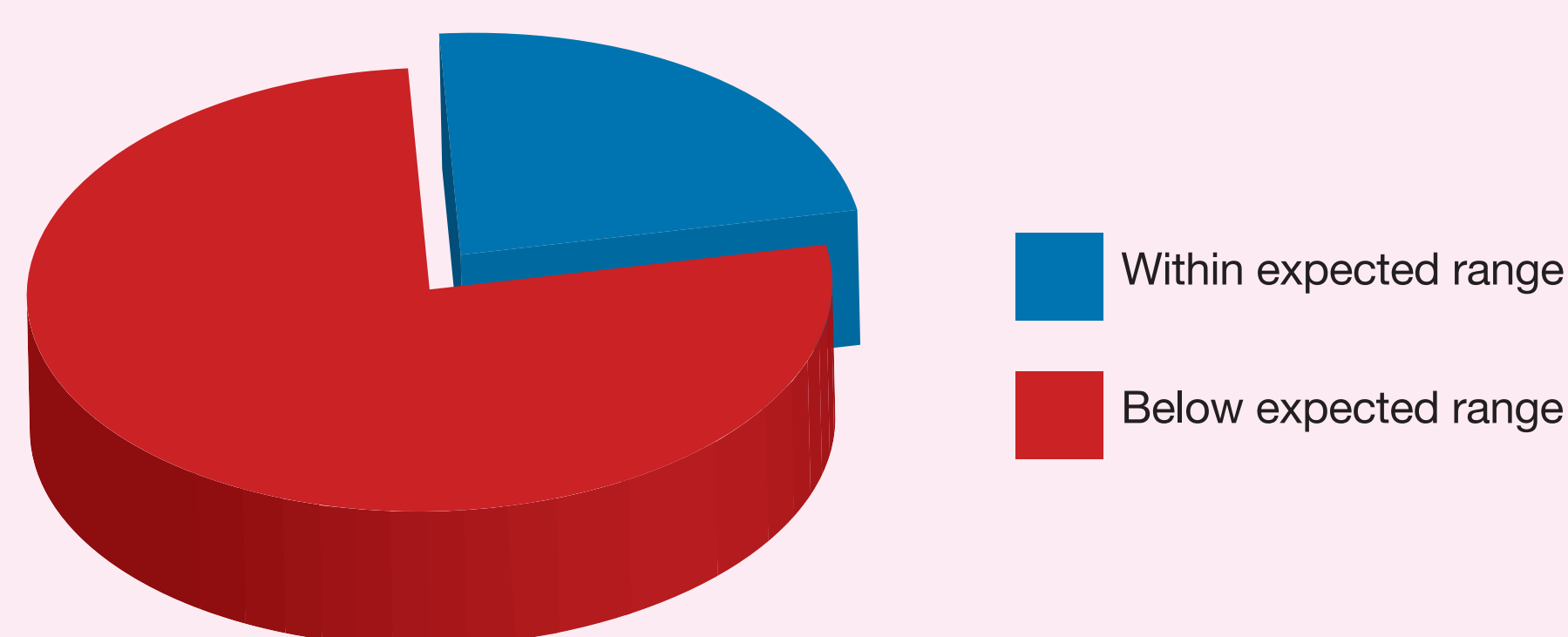
There is a growing body of evidence that suggests a relationship between social, emotional and behavioural needs (SEBN) and speech, language and communication difficulties in children and young people (1).

Since understanding and using spoken language is crucial to accessing learning and forming relationships, the authors aimed to identify how many young people attending local SEBN secondary schools had co-existing language and communication needs with a view to developing services for this group of young people.

In addition, the views of teachers were gathered in the expectation this would lead to targeted staff support and development.

1. Unidentified Language Deficits in Children with Emotional and Behavioural Disorders: A Meta-Analysis. Hollo A, Wehby JH, Oliver RM. 2014, *Exceptional Children*, pp. 169-186.

ERRNI assessment results

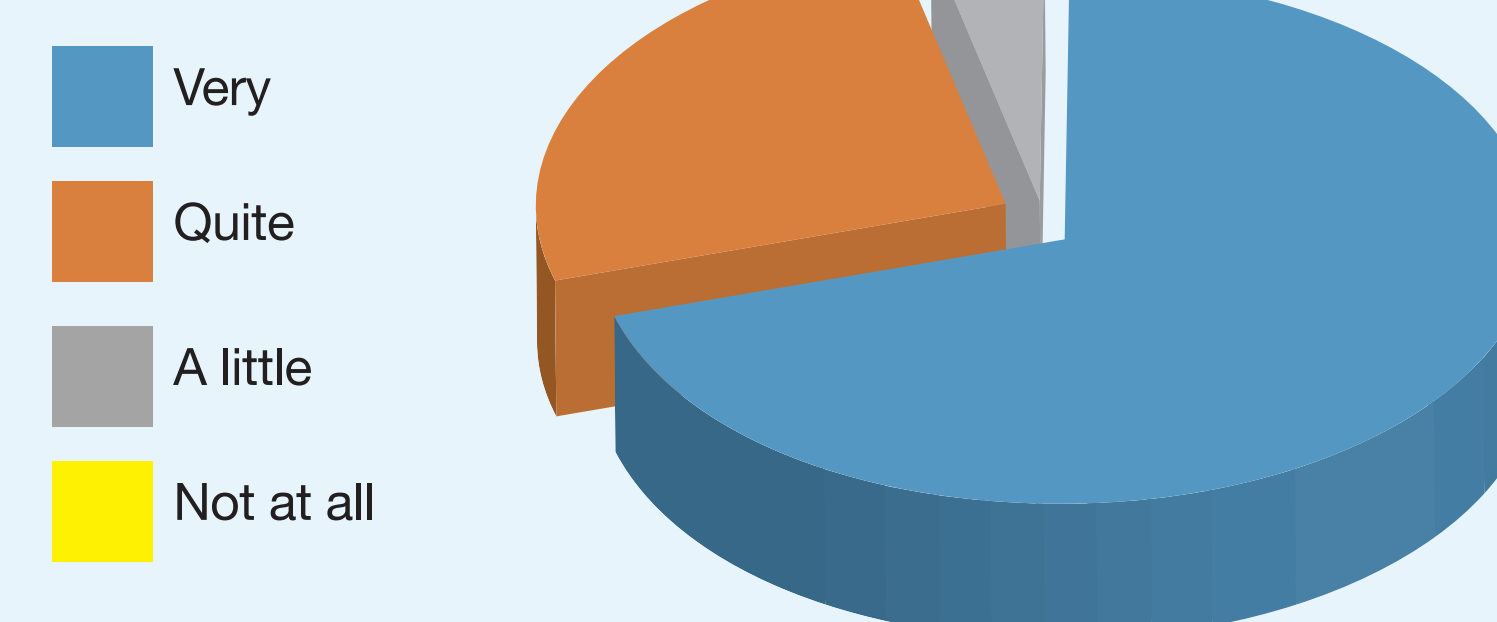


Over three quarters of the young people scored outside the expected range in at least one area of language that contributes to narrative skills. Narrative skills allow children to talk about what they already know, and re-tell life events.

Teachers showed very high levels of interest in knowing more about speech, language and communication and how it relates to their work.

Pupils gave reasons why some people were hard to talk to and which situations made communication difficult.

Teacher Motivation to learn more about SLCN and relevance to job



Identify pupil needs and opportunities

Partner with Education staff to develop supports

Establish a sustainable model of staged support for communication needs

Speech and Language Therapists will now work with education services to develop a staged approach to communication support in the SEBN schools that helps meet the needs identified through the project stage.

"It's not who's easy and who's hard. It's just who's nice and who's not"

"I've got better over the years"

"Don't like to ask teachers for help cause I'm too stubborn."

"If I can I'll talk to them. It's really, really hard and it really frustrates me."

"If you see someone regularly it's easier to communicate with them"

"I'm always talking to the janny. I love her."

"it's quite easy for me to talk with one friend and then it's just me and nobody else."

"Well sometimes I go to Asda, I don't like to talk to a lot of people because I get embarrassed."

