



A young girl laughing beside her dolls house.



The Centered Space

Free guide: parents and carers

Talks in paragraphs. Writes in two lines?

The School Meeting Checklist: five language signs that hide behind a child who seems to be doing fine. One question to ask the school for each.

— Five signs to watch for

Spoken and written sentences do not match



A detailed spoken story shrinks to two short lines on paper. Ask: is there a gap between what she says and what she writes?

Two-step instructions get lost



The first step gets done. The second never arrives. Ask: how many steps can she hold at once?

The word takes a while to arrive



"The thing" and "the stuff" stand in for words she knows. Ask: does she hunt for words in class?

Grammar slips when the sentence gets long



Tense and word order go wrong in a long sentence, spoken or written. Ask: do errors grow with sentence length?

Trouble retelling in order



A retold story comes out of sequence. Ask: can she retell a story in order?

— Why can a confident talker still have a language gap?

Chatting uses the language she already has. A longer instruction, a longer sentence or a page of her own ideas asks for more of it. One can look fine while the other does not.

— How do I ask the school?

- 1 Ask for a learning-support meeting, not a chat at pickup.
- 2 Bring examples, not impressions. A page of her own writing beside a story she told aloud makes the gap visible.
- 3 Ask whether the school can refer for a speech pathology assessment, or support one you organise yourselves.

What does it cost and who pays? This guide is for people who already have an NDIS plan, **plan-managed or self-managed**. NDIS funding may cover speech pathology where it aligns with the participant's goals and approved plan. Not all NDIS plans include speech pathology supports. We are not NDIS-registered. \$193.99 an hour, the NDIS price limit. Check your plan, and take your time.

— How do I start?

Fiona Wright, speech pathologist, works Tuesday to Thursday. Her books open **Tuesday 10 November 2026**.

- 1 Book a free NDIS consult with Liz, our NDIS specialist, on the page below or scan the code. She goes through what your plan can fund.
- 2 Or book a free clinical consult with Haylee, our senior speech pathologist, to talk through what you are seeing first. Nothing is booked until you say so.

Liz, our NDIS specialist

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Source: Norbury and colleagues (2016), Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry.