



School Readiness: Talking to Learn

ESP&TS



**Secondary
schools**

**Special
units
and
special
schools**

**Mainstream
primary
schools**



Preschool




**Interstate
branches**



**Parent
subsidised**





**Did you know most schools
do not offer their parents
Speech Therapy support?**

**Huge thank you to your
Principal & Assistant
/Deputy Principals!**



What is a Speech
Pathologist and how can
they help my child at
school?





A Speech Pathologist is a person who is trained for 4 years at University to help people with their communication.

We can help children who are having difficulty with listening, speaking, reading, writing, sounding out speech sounds, and social skills.



When our children start school we
all want them to:

- ❖ be **happy & enjoy going to school,**

- ❖ **fit in** well,

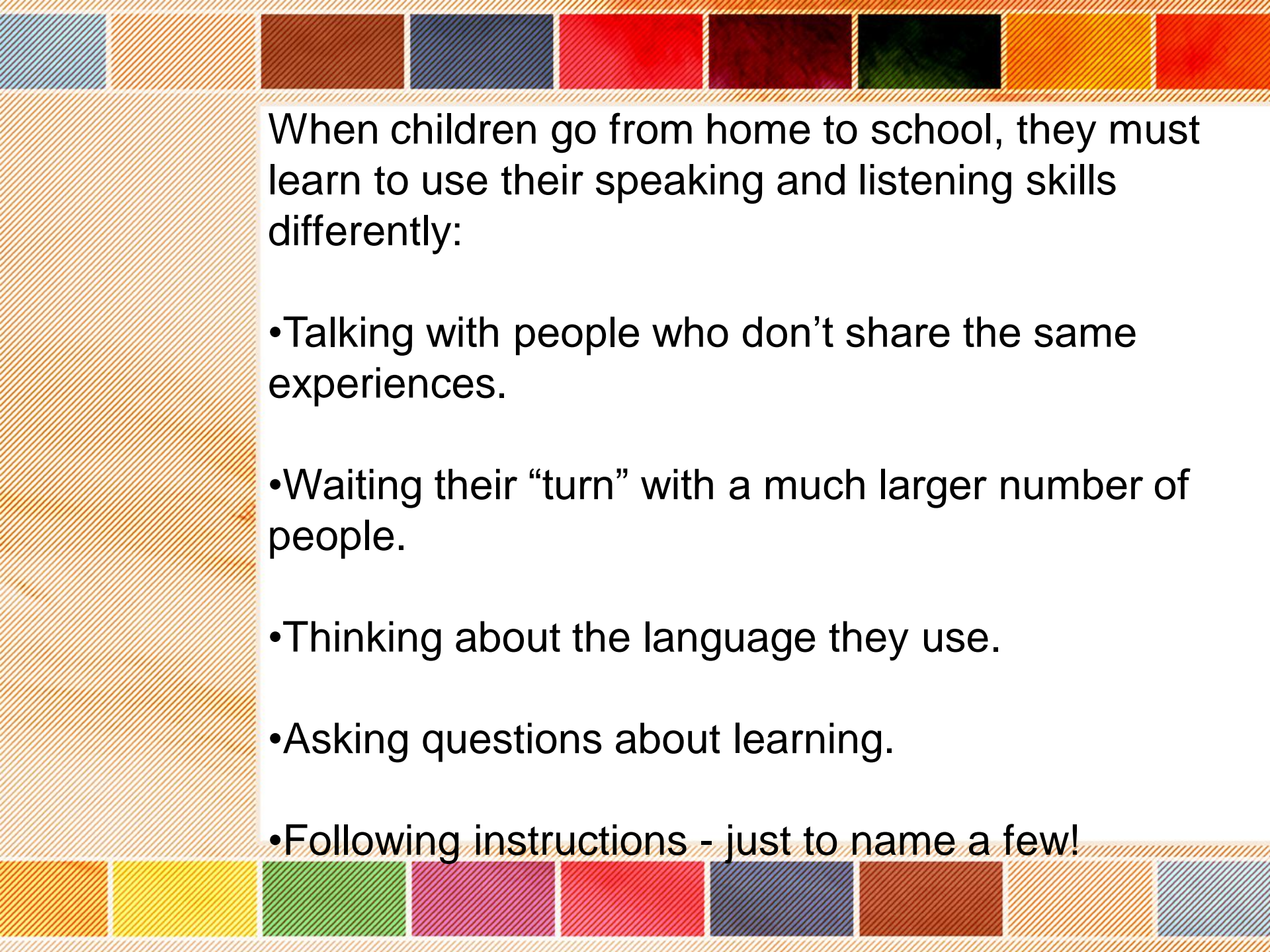
- ❖ **make friends** and

- ❖ **learn to read & write**

but did you know that there is a
critical skill that underlies these
areas...

How do you think
'school' language is
different to 'home'
language?





When children go from home to school, they must learn to use their speaking and listening skills differently:

- Talking with people who don't share the same experiences.
- Waiting their "turn" with a much larger number of people.
- Thinking about the language they use.
- Asking questions about learning.
- Following instructions - just to name a few!

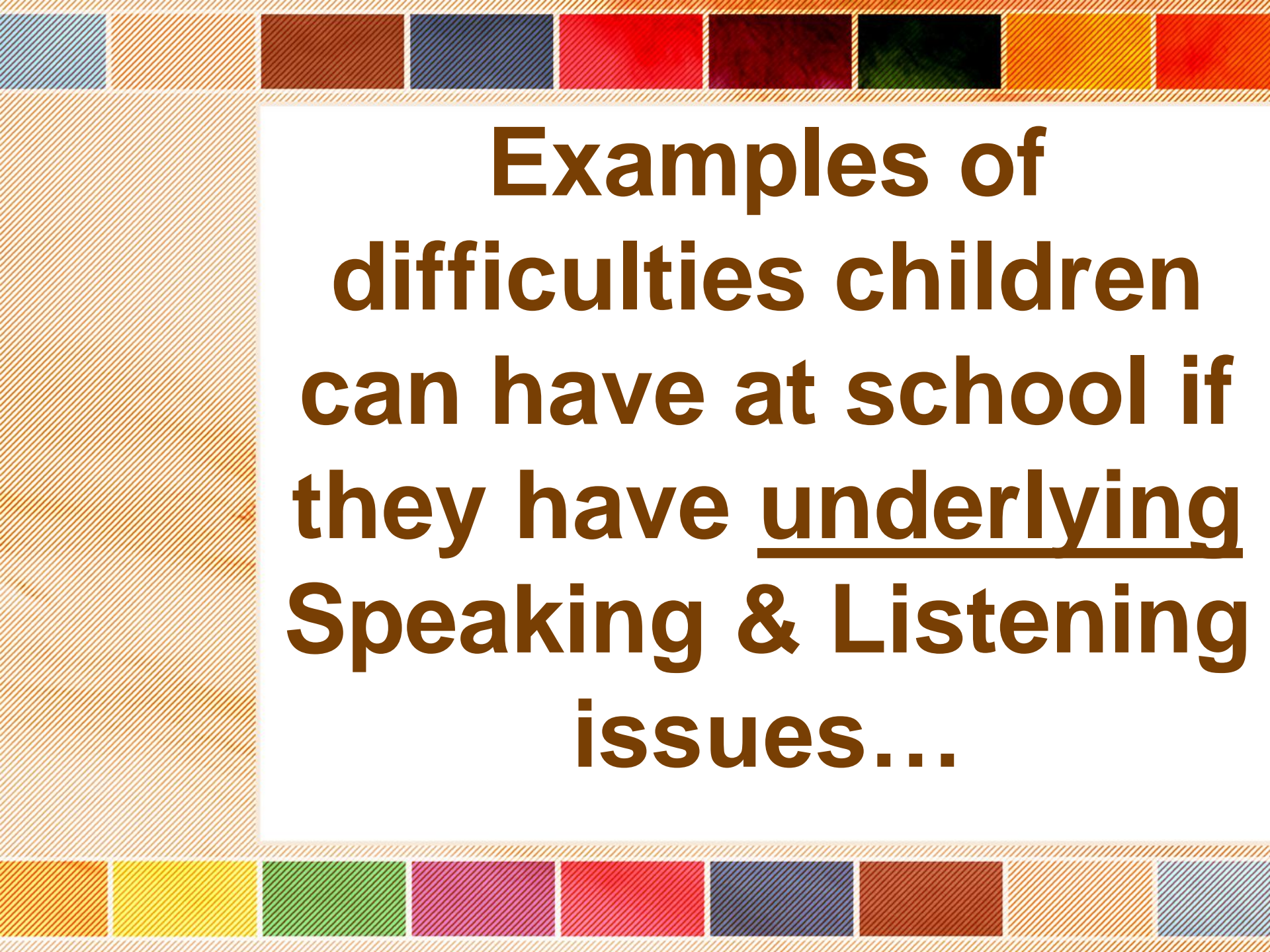
Do you remember how you learnt to read?

Think about a word that you find hard to spell..

Good readers make reading look easy, however learning to read & write is **not** easy or “natural” for most children.

Oral language and pre-literacy skills support early reading and writing skills.





**Examples of
difficulties children
can have at school if
they have underlying
Speaking & Listening
issues...**

Frustration
at not
being
understood

Behaviour problems



Paying
attention
and
following
instructions

Getting into trouble



Problems learning to read and write



Sadness,
school
refusal &
'acting
out'

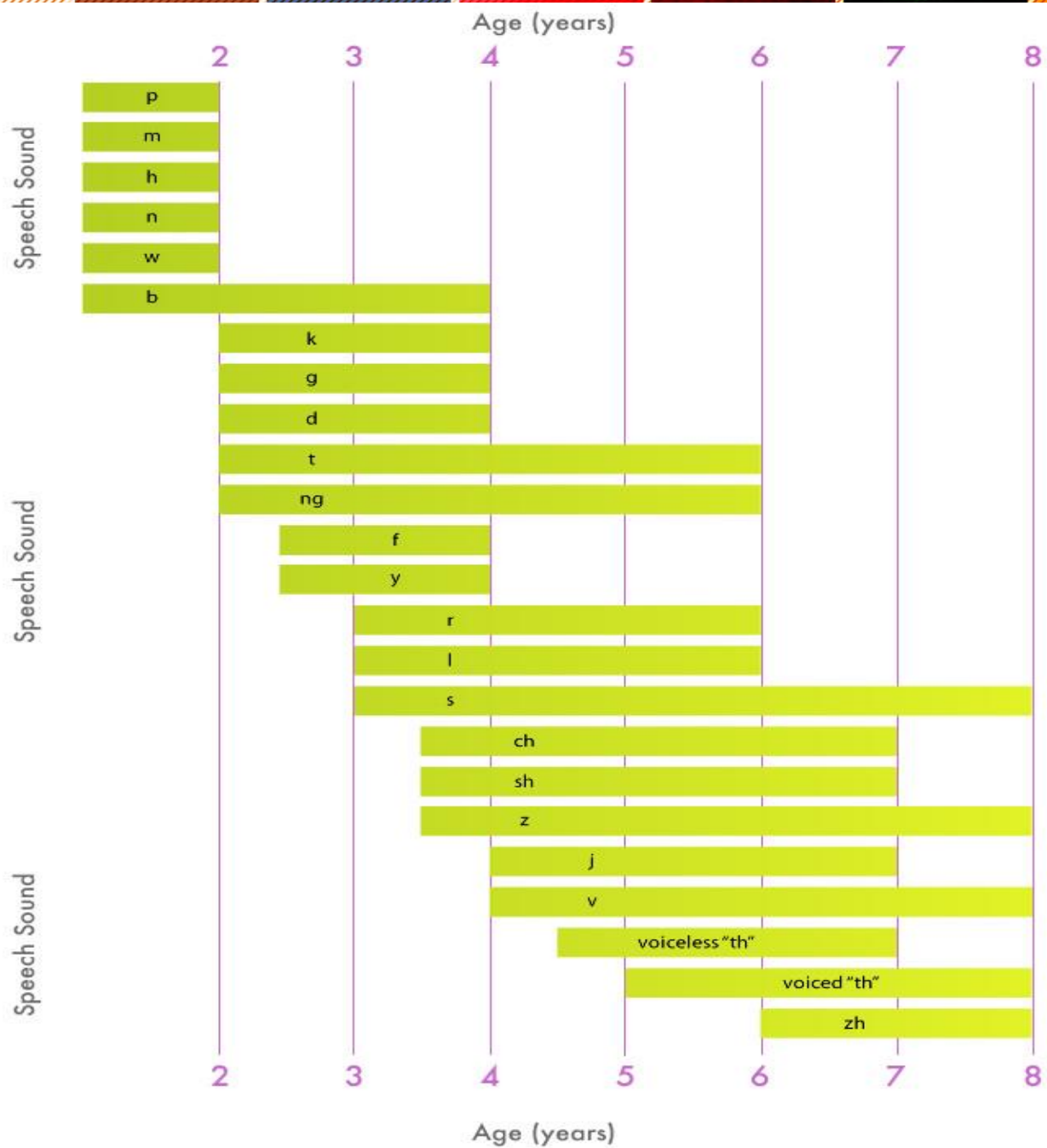
Problems making friends



Speech sound problems – what to look for...

“Children should be clearly understood by an unfamiliar person by the time they enter school”





Reluctant to talk

Talks too much but doesn't make sense

Speaks like a younger child

Limited vocabulary

Over-use of 'vague' words

Words out of order

Expressive language problems – what to look for...



Hearing problems – what to look for...



May have a lot of colds

May be unable to blow nose

Speaks too loudly or too softly

Mishears words

Asks for frequent repetition

Disinterested

**Needs to copy
from others**

**Only completes
part of an
instruction**

**Can't answer
questions
correctly**

**Misunderstands
what is said to
them**

**Tends to
interpret things
very literally**

Comprehension problems – what to look for



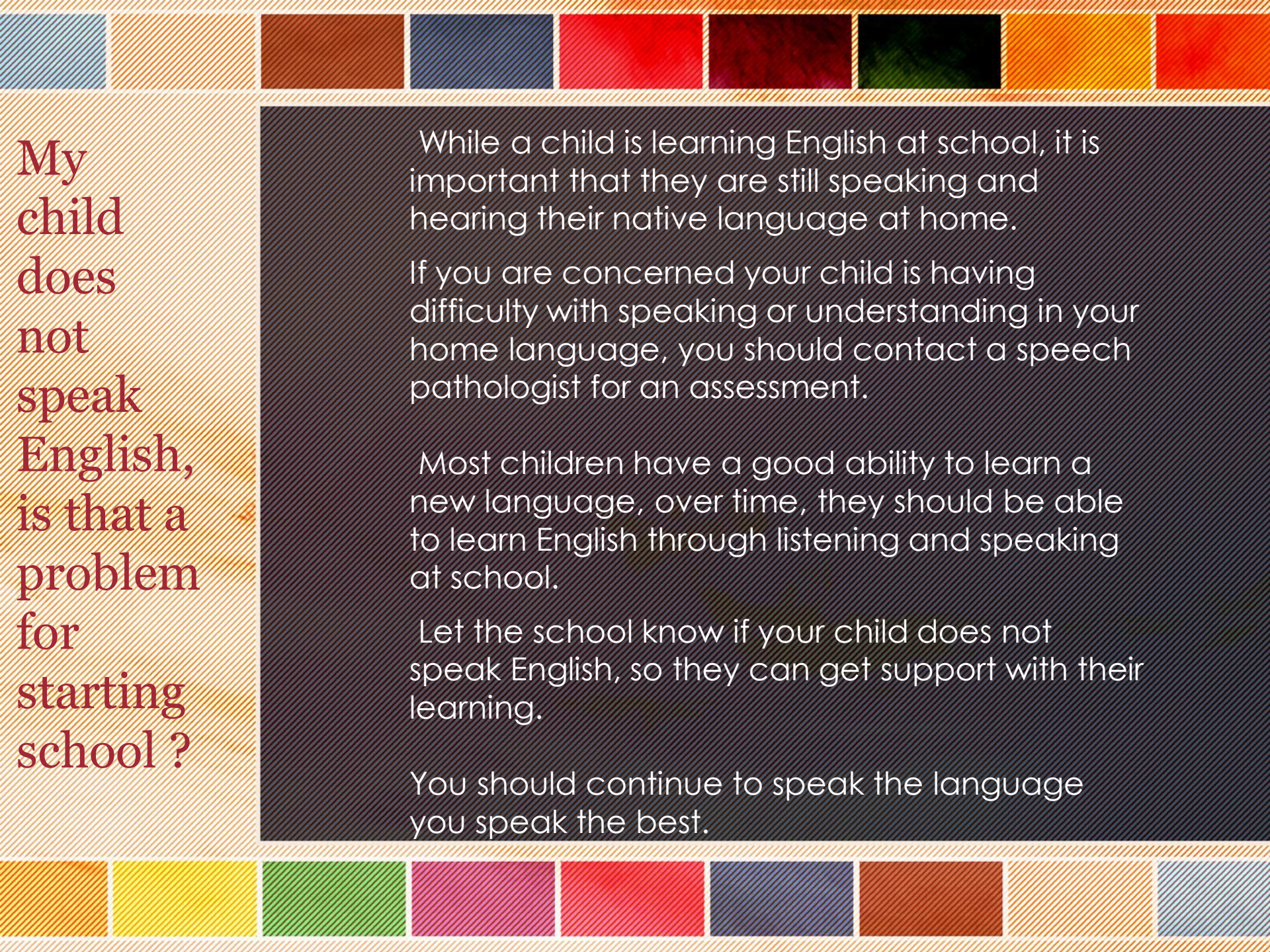


**Children
should be
able to do
the
following
things
before they
start
school...**

- Using **clear speech** that can be understood by strangers
- **Listening** attentively for up to 5 minutes or more
- Knowing **concepts** such as in, on, under
- **Expressing** their ideas in a way that you or others can understand
- **Following instructions** of two or three parts
- Using a **range of words** such as body parts, colours, action words, etc.
- **Asking or answering** simple questions

**Can I still help my
child if I don't
speak
English
well?**





My
child
does
not
speak
English,
is that a
problem
for
starting
school ?

While a child is learning English at school, it is important that they are still speaking and hearing their native language at home.

If you are concerned your child is having difficulty with speaking or understanding in your home language, you should contact a speech pathologist for an assessment.

Most children have a good ability to learn a new language, over time, they should be able to learn English through listening and speaking at school.

Let the school know if your child does not speak English, so they can get support with their learning.

You should continue to speak the language you speak the best.

What can I do
to help
prepare my
child for
school?



General Tips...



Make sure your child
has plenty of
sleep and is not tired
at school



Make sure your
child has plenty of
healthy food and a
good diet



Kids feel good
about
themselves if
they have
some
independence



Outdoor time,
play and healthy
exercise




Most
importantly,
family time!

Have your
child's vision
checked before
they start
school.



Have your
child's hearing
checked before
they start
school.





**Turn off
the TV
during
dinner –
talk
together
instead!**

Involve your child in lots of talking and listening.

Pay attention to what your child is saying and make time to get down on their level physically and join in with what they are doing.

Plan together Remember, talking is learning too!

Is hearing important?

Hearing loss can be caused by infection, injury or other causes.

Children with even a mild hearing loss can find it hard to hear well in the classroom and the playground.

This makes learning very hard. Children can miss out on learning speech sounds, spoken language, understanding others, reading, writing and social interaction. This can effect the child's social, emotional and intellectual development.

The earlier your child is tested, diagnosed and treated, the better their learning will be at school.

If your child has had a lot of ear infections, if they have not had a recent hearing test, or if you are worried about your child's hearing, contact your community health service for a hearing test before starting school.

Why reading to your child is important...

Reading to and with your child is important because..


- 1. It's close 'family time' that focusses on them!**
- 2. They get to hear the sounds, patterns and language used in literate language.**
- 3. They learn to visualise (make pictures in their head)
- a very important skill for language learning!**



A decorative border surrounds the slide content. The top border consists of nine squares: light blue with diagonal lines, orange with diagonal lines, solid brown, solid blue, solid red, solid dark red, solid black, solid orange, and solid red. The bottom border consists of nine squares: solid orange, solid yellow, solid green with diagonal lines, solid pink with diagonal lines, solid red, solid blue with diagonal lines, solid brown, solid orange with diagonal lines, and light blue with diagonal lines. The left side of the slide has a vertical orange background with a diagonal line pattern.

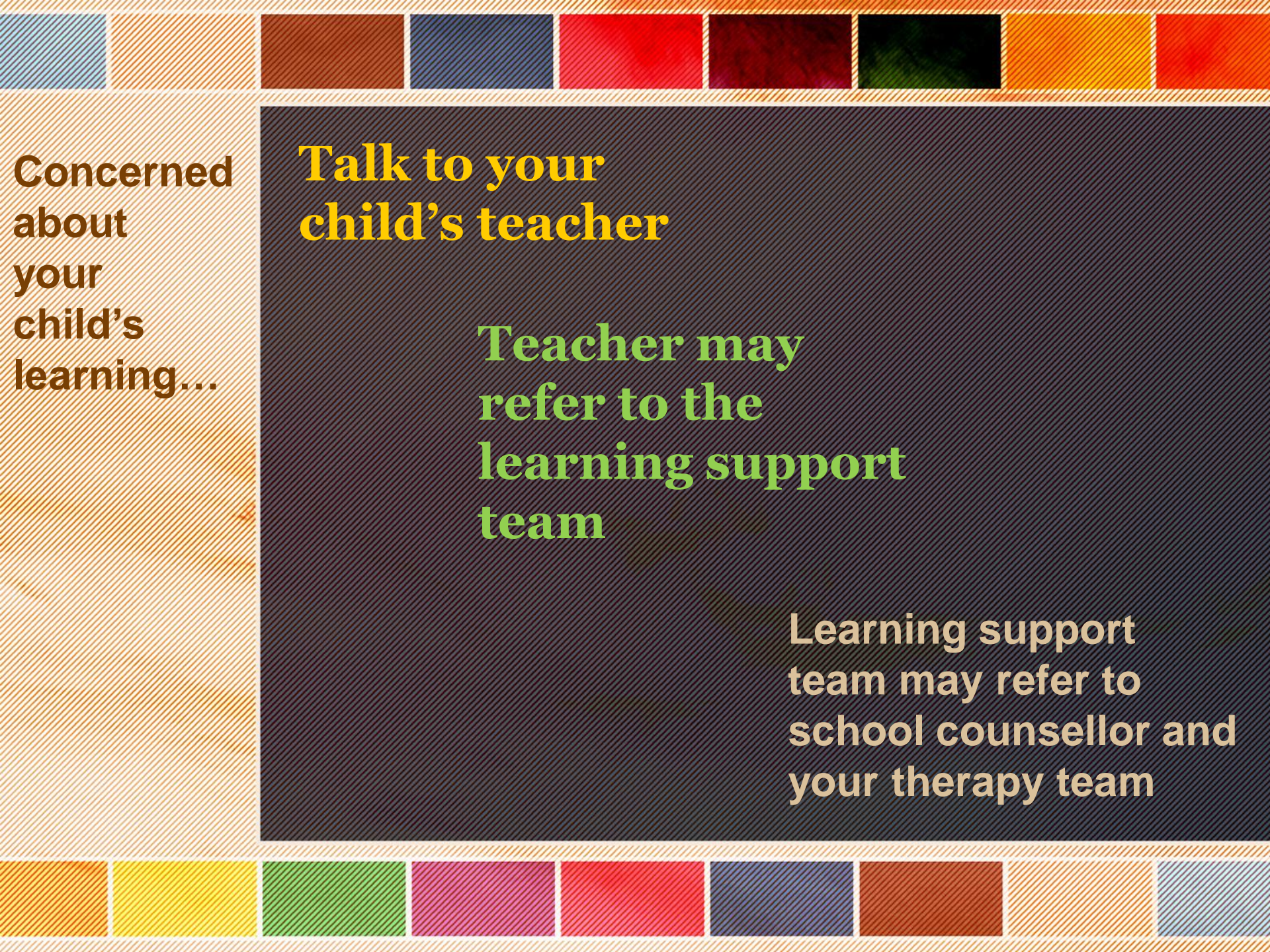
Books are for talking too!

- I wonder what this book is going to be about...
- Oh oh what might happen next?
- Do you remember when we...
- Why do you think he did that?
- Look at this big word...
- Do you remember the story so far?



What can I do if I am worried about my child's speech or language ?

- Schools have **specialist teachers** who support children with learning needs – please discuss your concerns **before** your child starts school.
- **Always** let your school know if your child is already seeing a speech pathologist or any other specialist outside of school.
- **Hearing** test
- **Community Health services**
- **See your GP – medicare rebate**
- **Private therapy – SPA 'find a speech pathologist'**
- **Educational Speech Pathology & Therapy Services**



**Concerned
about
your
child's
learning...**

**Talk to your
child's teacher**

**Teacher may
refer to the
learning support
team**

**Learning support
team may refer to
school counsellor and
your therapy team**

The image features a collection of colored pencils and a color calibration bar. At the top, there is a horizontal bar with nine color swatches: light blue, light orange, brown, dark blue, red, dark red, black, yellow, and orange. On the right side, a bundle of colored pencils is shown, with their tips pointing towards the left. The pencils have various colored erasers and sharpened leads. The background is a light beige surface with some faint, orange-colored smudges or stains. The word "Questions?" is written in a large, bold, brown font on the left side of the image.

Questions?