

An introduction to the Derbyshire Language Scheme

The Scheme is for English speaking children with slow language development.

It contains tests and teaching activities to help improve their language.



There are two volumes of teaching activities, a User Manual and a Picture Test.

The Picture Test is shown on the left.

All materials both tests and teaching, allow the user to move in small steps.

The Scheme covers an age range from around 12 months to 5 years



The two tests contained in the Derbyshire Language Scheme

The Rapid Screening Test

Takes about 5 minutes and gives you a rough idea of the child's ability to understand.

The Detailed Test of Comprehension

This has toy play tests and picture tests and takes about 30 minutes and gives you more detail on the child's understanding and a sample of expression.



Understanding how the Scheme tests the child's understanding (comprehension)

Children use any clue they can see to help them understand



Can you put your coat on, we're going shopping?

In this situation, the child could work out what was wanted just from the clues



However in this situation the child needs to listen



Can you put your coat on, we're going shopping?

Even then, if she does what her Mum says she may have only understood 'coat' and 'shopping'



We try to get a more accurate picture of comprehension.

We gradually build up in small steps to difficult requests and count the number of words they can take in.

Equipment shown is for “**Wash the little dolly’s hair**”

The child might brush the doll’s hair, go for the wrong toy.

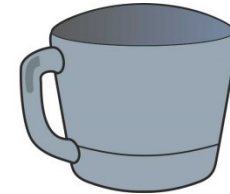
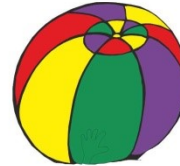
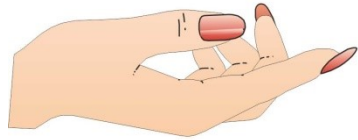
We make several requests before we make up our minds.

This is a 4 word level request, about a 3 to 4 year level.



Children are tested by starting with single word requests

Give me the cup (hand held out)



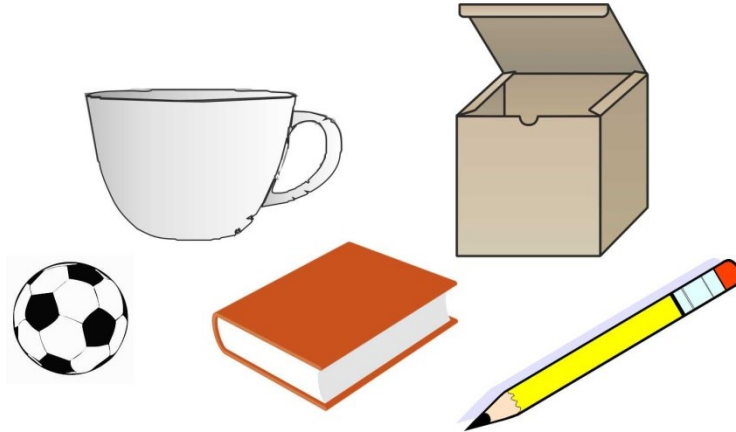
And working through

Two Word Level,
Three Word Level
Four Word level
Above Four Word level

We will say a child is at **Two Word Level**,
meaning they can understand request up to that level,
but make errors above that.



In the Rapid Screening Test
We start at Single Word Level
Go on to 2 word level



Put the pencil in the box

Then 3 word level and finally 4 word level and above

Put the ball in the cup and the pencil in the box, and open the book



Please note these are not the real Rapid Screening Test items.

Using the score from the Rapid Screening Test

You decide which subtests to give from the Detailed Test of Comprehension (DTC).

For this test you need to use toys of your own but the Picture Test is part of the Scheme.

The remaining slides shows samples of score sheets for the Subtests of the DTC



DETAILED TEST OF COMPREHENSION
SCORE SHEETS

DTC

NAME _____

DATE OF TEST _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

AGE _____

RESULT OF RAPID SCREENING TEST

	✓ or X	Starting Point DTC
ITEM 1		Single Word Level – Subtest 1 page 1
ITEM 2		Single Word Level – Subtest 4 page 4
ITEM 3		Two Word Level – Subtest 1 page 7
ITEM 4		Three Word Level – Subtest 1 page 11
ITEM 5 (a)		Three Word Level – Subtest 1 page 11
ITEM 5 (b)	}	Four Word Level page 15 and Levels 5 to 10 page 16
ITEM 5 (c)		
ITEM 5 (d)		
It is not intended that the entire collection of subtests be given to any one child.		
Read the User Manual for directions.		

The above front cover of the Detailed Test of Comprehension allows you to enter the child's Rapid Screening Test result and indicates which subtests to use.



Derbyshire Language Scheme – DTC Single Word Level Subtest 1



DERBYSHIRE LANGUAGE SCHEME DETAILED TEST OF COMPREHENSION

1 SINGLE WORD LEVEL SUBTEST 1 REAL OBJECTS

Equipment: Items listed in table below.

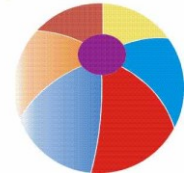
**N.B. Replace equipment
in original position
after each request.**

Requests:-

"Where is the?"
or "Give me the?"
or "Show me the?"

* The child is credited with a comprehension pass if he or she names the object spontaneously even if the item is not tested for comprehension. Thus if a child successfully passes an item for expression he or she would be credited with a comprehension pass.

	COMP*	EXPRESSION
Ball		
Key		
Spoon		
Brick		
Book		
Cup		
Shoe		
Doll		



4 objects at a time. Test for comprehension.

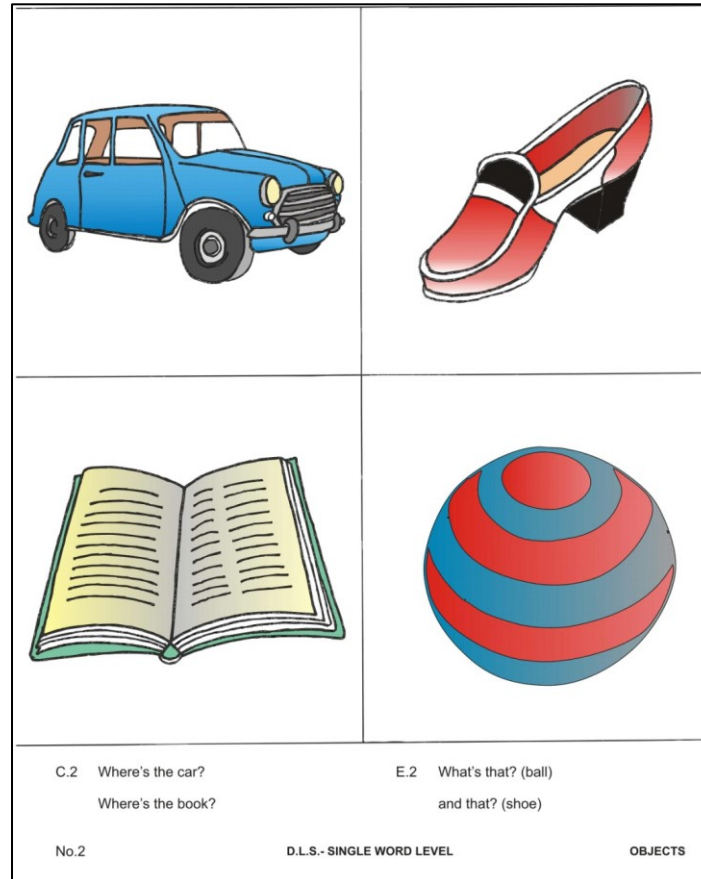
Once the child is relaxed ask child to name 1 or 2

Correct naming of object treated as comprehension pass.

Move flexibly between comprehension testing and eliciting
expression if child chatty



Derbyshire Language Scheme – DTC Single Word Objects picture Test

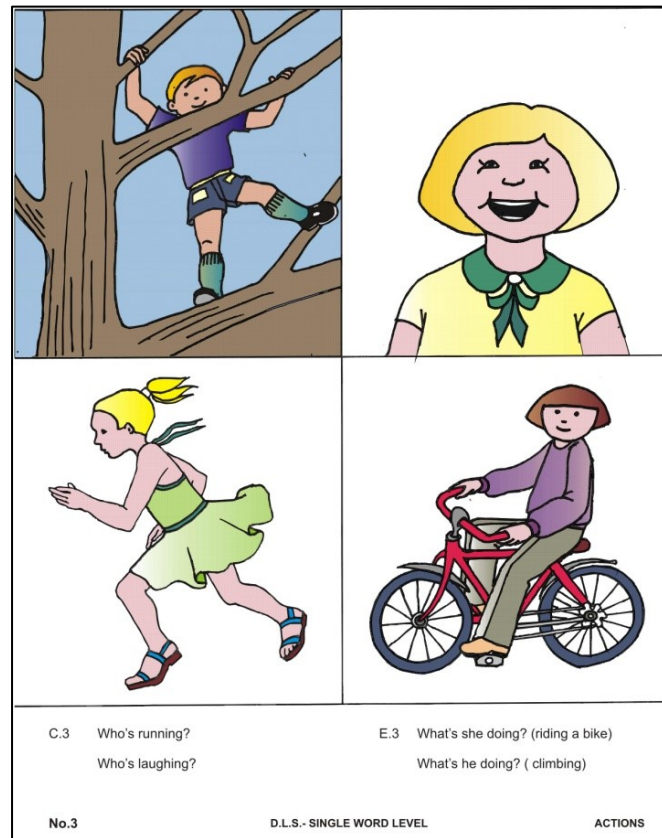


Sample page of the single word objects picture test
2 pictures are tested for comprehension,
2 for expression.

There are 10 pages in all covering objects, animals,
body parts, clothes etc



Single Word Level Action picture test



2 pictures tested for comprehension, 2 for expression.

if the child uses the action word to describe the picture, treat it as a pass for comprehension.

There are five pages covering 20 different actions.

Test children who've scored at 2 or 3 word level to see if they need help with action words.



DLS – Detailed Test of Comprehension (DTC)

Two to Four word levels of the DTC
has both toy play and picture tests

There are Toy play tests at 2, 3 and 4 word levels.

Sample sentences tested in the toy play test:

‘Wash Dolly’s hands.’

‘Put Teddy on the chair.’


‘Give the little cup to Dolly.’

‘Make Dolly stand on the table.’



DLS - Detailed Test of Comprehension Score Sheet

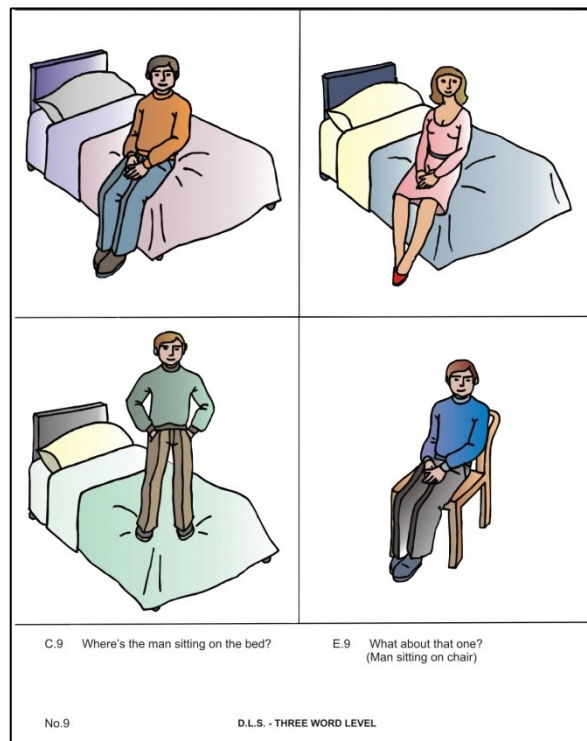
3 Word Level Toy Play -Sample

DERBYSHIRE LANGUAGE SCHEME DETAILED TEST OF COMPREHENSION		3 THREE WORD LEVEL SUBTEST 1 TOY PLAY TEST
Replace Equipment in Original Position After Each Test Item		
SECTION I ACTION ON OBJECT (inc. possession) - COMMAND Equipment: doll, teddy, sponge, hairbrush, shampoo bottle, toothbrush. PROCEDURE: Lead-in items*:- Here's teddy Wash his face Wash his hair Brush his hair TEST ITEMS:- a) Wash dolly's hair b) Brush teddy's hair c) Wash dolly's face d) Brush teddy's teeth e) Wash dolly's hands	COMP	EXPRESSION
		

Score sheets show equipment needed
and brief instructions

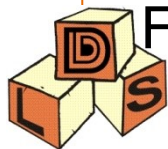
Sections have a lead-in before the main test questions.
Administer two or three sections for comprehension and then try and
persuade the child to direct the tester in 'role reversal'.





Picture tests exist at the two and three word comprehension levels.

Ask one question for comprehension and one for expression
(e.g. C. where's the man sitting on the bed? E. And what about that one?)



For children at 4 word comprehension level, use the picture test from levels 5 to 10.

DLS – Detailed Test of Comprehension

2 and 3 word level Picture tests

Sample sentences tested in two and three word picture tests.

Where is the cup under the table?

Where is the man washing the car?

Where is the woman standing on the chair?

Who's brushing Dolly's hair?

Who's kicking the little ball?



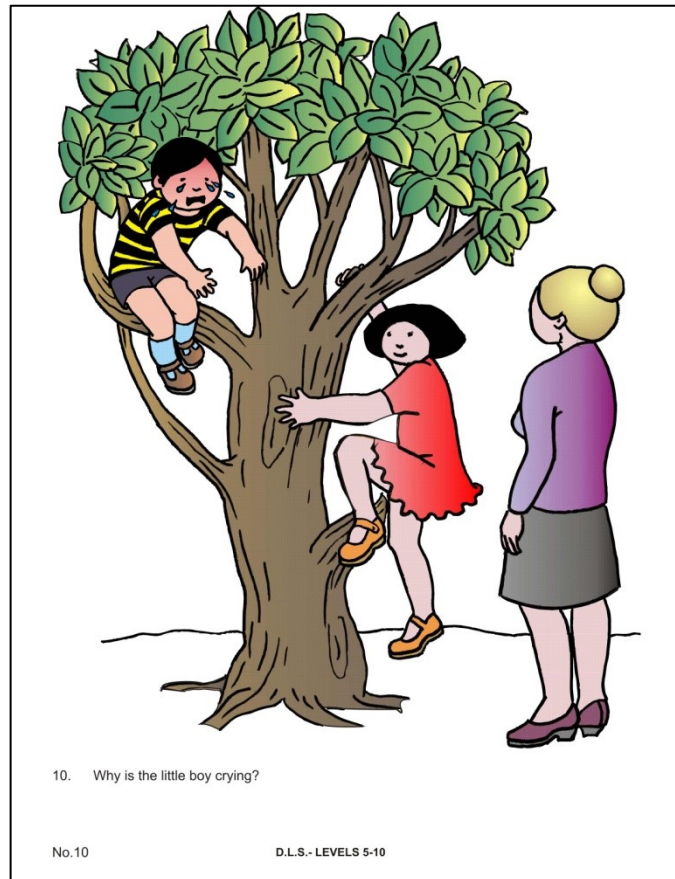
DLS – Detailed Test of Comprehension Levels 5 to 10

Levels 5 to 10 has three tests: a picture test; a test of advanced comprehension; and a test of expression called 'reversal cards'.

The picture test assesses verb tenses, prepositions, pronouns and other aspects of syntax for comprehension and expression.



Levels 5 to 10 Picture Test



Testing understanding of a why question and eliciting
'because'

(why is the little boy crying?)

Any reasonable response is considered correct. (E.g.
because his mum is shouting at him etc.)



DLS – Levels 5 to 10 picture test

The picture tests has 22 pages. It tests the following:

prepositions: in, on, behind, in front, next to

verb tenses: he has climbed the ladder, she's going to wash

pronouns: he, she, his, her, their

question words: why?

and other aspects of syntax.

(N.B. This test is used for children at 4 word comprehension or above.)



Levels 5 to 10 - Advanced Comprehension subtest

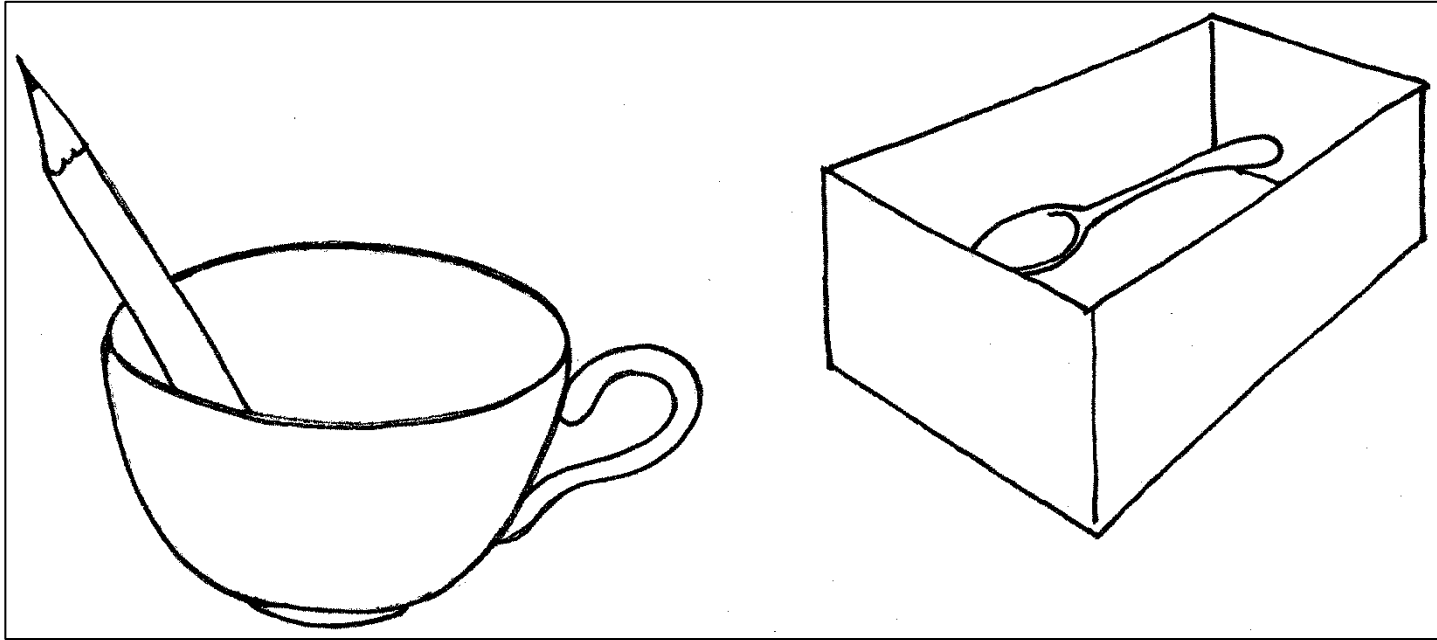
TEST ITEMS:		COMP
LEVEL 5		
a)	Close the purse and the book	
b)	Give me the spoon and the plate	
LEVEL 7		
c)	Put the pencil in the box and close it	
d)	Close the book and put it on the plate	

1st simple requests with two separate actions e.g. ‘close the purse and the book’,

then a sequence with a natural link, e.g. put the pencil in the box and close it.

Finally a sequence with no natural link, e.g. ‘put the purse on the floor and give me the cup’.





DTC – Levels 5 to 10 – Reversal Cards

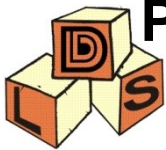
The child is encouraged to direct the tester to put the equipment as shown in a picture.

With luck the child should use a sequence of commands
e.g. put the pencil in the cup and the spoon in the box



Expression to be expected at various levels

Comprehension	Expression expected
single word level	single words
early two word level	single words
Later two word level	two and three word combinations.
Three word level	3 to 7 words sentences
Four word level above four word level }	4 to 5 words sentences typical with many considerably longer



Patterns vary and some children have high comprehension, but poor expression and others vice-versa.

Rough rules for intervention

Assess level of **comprehension** where child is consistent

Extend their range of sentences and concepts understood, and eventually their comprehension level.

Find out typical level of **expression**, and range of sentences used. Ensure fluency, ease of use by extensive practice and gradually encourage child to increase range and length of sentences.

