

## Language Rich Environment: Checklist

### Visual Support & Accessibility

- **Visual Timetable:** Is it up-to-date, at eye level, and used consistently?
- **Now/Next/Then:** Are individual boards available for students who need task breakdown?
- **Consistent Symbols:** Are you using a consistent symbol set (e.g., Widgit, PCS) across the whole school?
- **Environmental Labeling:** Are key areas and resources labeled with text AND symbols?
- **Communication Ramps:** Are there AAC devices, PECS books, or core boards readily accessible in every zone?

### Physical Environment & Sensory Regulation

- **Sensory Load:** Are displays meaningful or just "clutter"? Is there a neutral space to reduce overstimulation?
- **Zoned Learning:** Are there clear areas for different activities (e.g., quiet reading, messy play) to prime language use?
- **Acoustics:** Can students hear the adult clearly? Are there soft furnishings to reduce echo?

### Adult Interaction & Pedagogy

- **The 4 S's:** Are adults practicing: **S**ay less, **S**tress key words, **S**low down, **S**how (visuals)?
- **Wait Time (OWL):** Are adults giving at least 10 seconds for a student to process and respond?  
20 seconds in SEND settings?
- **Modeling:** Are adults using "Thinking Out Loud" and modeling the use of AAC/symbols themselves?
- **Scaffolding:** Is questioning pitched correctly?

### Opportunities for Communication

- **Communication Temptations:** Are favourite items visible but out of reach to encourage requesting?
- **Peer Interaction:** Are there structured opportunities for students to talk/communicate with each other?
- **Vocabulary Focus:** Is there a "Word of the Week" or a Tier 2/3 vocabulary display with visual Prompts?