## Stages of confident speaking

1. **No communication or participation**  
   Passively accepts help e.g. stands still while coat is done up but makes no attempt to seek assistance

2. **Co-operates but limited communication**  
   Complies with requests which are perceived as non-threatening e.g. gives out worksheets but won’t copy actions

3. **Communicates through non-verbal means**  
   e.g. Responds by nodding/shaking head or writing

4. **Uses non-verbal sounds**  
   e.g. laughs audibly

5. **Speaks near (but not directly to) a person**  
   e.g. will talk to parents in same room as teaching assistant

6. **Uses single words with selected people**  
   e.g. Responds to questions with limited information or yes/no answer

7. **Uses connected speech with selected people**  
   e.g. able to talk to certain adults provided they feel no-one else is listening

8. **Begins to generalise talking to a range of people**  
   e.g. talks normally at home in front of visitors

9. **Begins to generalise talking in a range of settings**  
   e.g. talks to selected adults in different parts of the school when others can hear them

10. **Communicates freely**  
    e.g. contributes to class discussions

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Adapted from The Selective Mutism Resource Manual – M. Johnson & A. Wintgens