



**71%** of children sentenced in the youth justice system in England and Wales (Apr 19 - Mar 20) had **speech, language & communication needs** <sup>1</sup>



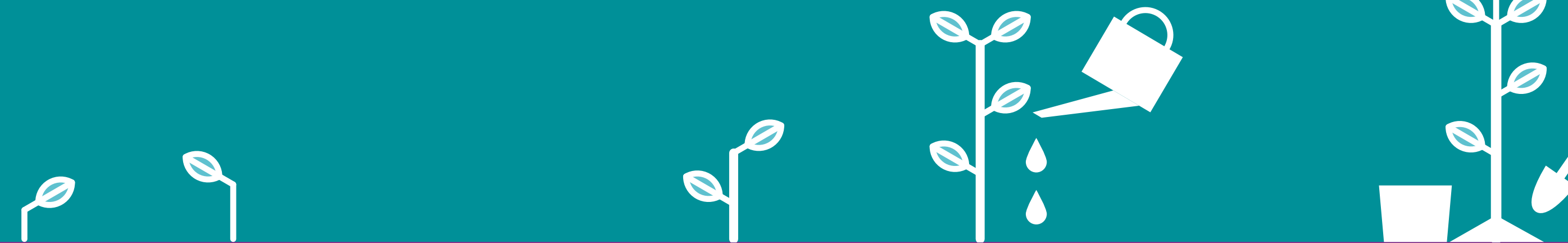
In young offenders, unrecognised **Developmental Language Disorder** is one of the **biggest predictors of reoffending** <sup>3</sup>

**x2**

Children with lower vocabulary scores at age 5 are **twice** as likely to experience periods of unemployment in adulthood <sup>2</sup>



**Modest investment** into training early years practitioners can have a **huge impact** on children's speech, language & communication outcomes <sup>4</sup>



## Future Prospects

*Modest investment can have a huge impact*

<sup>1</sup> Assessing the needs of sentenced children in the Youth Justice System - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/assessing-the-needs-of-sentenced-children-in-the-youth-justice-system))  
<sup>2</sup> Law, J., Rush, R., Schoon, I., & Parsons, S. (2009). Modeling developmental language difficulties from school entry into adulthood: literacy, mental health, and employment outcomes. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 52(6), 1401-1416.  
<sup>3</sup> Winstanley, M., Webb, R.T. & Conti-Ramsden, G. (2019) Psycholinguistic and socioemotional characteristics of young offenders: do language abilities and gender matter? *Legal and Criminological Psychology*, 24(2), 195-214. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lcrp.12150>  
<sup>4</sup> <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/early-years-toolkit/communication-and-language-approaches>