

Working with our partners: improving outcomes for children and young people

Speech and Language Therapy provision into mainstream schools and early years settings in Hertfordshire and West Essex is based upon the three tier model of service delivery.

This model of universal, targeted and specialist interventions aims to deliver prevention, early intervention and a therapeutic approach to improve communication, emotional well being and academic attainment amongst children and young people who have Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).



How to contact us

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Becoming a Communication Champion

Are you passionate about
promoting better communication
within your setting?



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Communication Champions understand the importance of communication and are figureheads within their setting

They are highly valued by the speech and language therapist for the support they provide promoting communication for children who have Speech, Language and Communication needs. (SLCN)

A Communication Champion is someone who...

- keeps communication on the agenda within their setting,
- supports their setting to understand the importance of communication,
- looks out for new ideas from other settings and organisations and brings ideas together to make them happen,
- shares great practice and inspires others to do the same.

What do Communication Champions do?

Below are some simple ideas of what you could do:

- run an all staff briefing on speech, language and communication,
- identify key members of staff who will undertake professional development activities focussing on communication,
- implement a classroom strategy to support communication and reflect on it as a staff team,
- set up a Communication Innovation Bank where staff share activities and ideas they find useful,
- implement the 'think time rule' in your setting,
- introduce a visual support strategy in the classrooms (visual timetables, colour coding, talk boxes etc),
- include speaking and listening activities explicitly in planning,
- run a competition about communication (for children or the most communication friendly classroom),
- raise awareness of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) by disseminating factsheets on SLCN to all staff,
- use identification guidance, tools and checklists in your setting,
- collate the interventions you are using across your setting to support children with SLCN,
- you could try a No Pens Day or Chatterbox Challenge in your setting.

Working with your link Speech and Language Therapist

- Communication Champions will attend the joint termly planning meeting with the therapist and your setting SENCo/INCo.
- Communication Champions will be invited to attend a local Communication Champions forum which is a great opportunity to link in with other Champions, share your good practice and access training from the Speech and Language Therapy team.
- Attend school support surgery or advice sessions in early years settings run by SLT.
- Prioritised place on an ELKLAN course.

If interested...

Each setting is encouraged to have a Communication Champion. You should discuss your interest in taking on this role with a member of your setting's leadership team or SENCo/INCo.

The link Speech and Language Therapist for your setting can also provide more information.