

Top Tips for Speech, Language, Communication Needs (SLCN)

- Wait! Allow processing time
- Make learning language fun Play around with words, make up, silly rhymes - children of all ages can enjoy the fun of language. Understanding how words are made up and rhyme helps with learning to read
- Be careful with questions when adults use comments and prompts rather than questions, children join in and talk a lot more.
- Talk about what children are interested in Children and young people are much more motivated to talk when it is about something they are interested in. Ask an open question where the answer is not only yes or no about a favourite hobby, for example.
- Have conversations Communication is a skill like any other - the more it is practised, the better it gets! Children and young people benefit from practising having conversations with adults as well as people their own age.
- Build on what they say Build on what children know and say already, to support them develop language to go to the next level; for example, taking turns with babies, adding words for toddlers, adding phrases for older children and showing teens how to debate.
- Vocabulary is key Learning and remembering words is incredibly important. Help children of all ages by using all their senses to teach new words. Then build in lots of repetition and practice.
- Be face to face with the child to make it easier to talk and listen.
- Make sure the child is listening to you before you start to talk.
- Make life interesting- provide interesting activities and opportunities to promote talking.

- Listen and learn- have quiet times to listen to everyday sounds and play listening games.
- Use daily routines to repeat and emphasise everyday language.
- Comment more. Question less. Comment more about what the child is doing, ask fewer questions.
- Remember to set a good example. If a child says something inaccurately, model it back in the correct way.
- Talk with every child every day.
- Tune into the child. Watch and listen to the child and talk about what they are interested in.
- Have fun together with songs, rhymes and stories.
- Give choices to build vocabulary, 'Would you like an apple or a pear?'
- Give the child time to answer. Count to 10 in your head while you wait.