

RVHS Information for Parents on... Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)



Speech and language are the skills we use to communicate with others.

Children learn language from the adults around them. The more adults understand how language develops, the easier it is for them to help children improve their talking, understanding and listening skills.

SLCN is an umbrella term; it applies to children or young people who have difficulty with one or more aspects of speech, language and communication.

Some SLCN will be long-term and persistent; others may be less so. It is estimated that around 10% of children have long-term, persistent SLCN. This may be a Specific Language Impairment. Other needs like Autism or ADHD may cause problems with language while medical problems like cleft palate, deafness or cerebral palsy may cause speech problems.

Many more children have delayed speech, language and communication development, but can catch up with help.

Support Options

Essex County Council have temporarily halted Speech and Language provision during the COVID-19 crisis. The government has issued two pieces of advice on this.

- 1) Families can contact charitable organisations about their child's condition. This will put them in touch with people who understand their child's condition. These organisations often have FACEBOOK communities where stresses faced by parents can be shared.
- 2) The government encourages the use of on-line based resources that parents can use to do Speech, Language and Social Communication sessions with their child. Links and explanations are below.

Links

The Eden Academy offers speech and language support and videos

<http://www.theedenacademy.co.uk/parent-forum/salt-2020>

Parents and carers looking after children with SEND advice during the coronavirus.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The Communication Trust has several on-line resources and booklets including resources for parents. They have a consortium of organisations of whom you can get in touch with for advice and a Facebook site.

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-parents/>

<http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-parents/other-ways-of-speaking/>

The BBC has a toolkit for parents of children with SEND including resources, activities and support to help you and your family during lockdown.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zh9v382>

Making a visual timetable to help structure your week

<http://www.senassist.com/resources.html>

This page has resources which you can print out and use to create a daily timetable. Individuals may settle if they have more visual cues as to what they are doing next. It also has good behaviour pictures and charts for encouraging them to do tasks.

Art-based methods: mind maps and storyboard

<http://www.senassist.com/resources.html>

These are very often effective with children and young people with SLCN. They are fun and work well because they rely less on written and spoken language and more on visual techniques. Involving children and young people in this way can help them retain what has been said for much longer than a more discussion-based task, too.
