



TheLink
COMMUNITY

Hello and season's greetings to you all!

As the winter solstice approaches and the UK continues its changeable seasonal weather, there's no better time to grab a warm cuppa and catch up on the latest SLCN updates. The Speech & Language Link team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful break and best wishes for 2025.



Little Link Assessment Project – Join Us!

We're thrilled to announce the development of our **Little Link** package for nursery/pre-school children. This will contain a universal language screening tool for children aged 3–5.

We have an opportunity for settings to be involved in developing our assessment and we'd love for you to be part of this exciting project.

To take part, your setting will need to meet the following criteria:

- Are a **nursery/pre-school setting**
- Have at least 20 children who understand and speak only English
- Are based in the UK (we are currently not recruiting in Kent and the home counties, South West England, or Wales)

Why Take Part?

- Find out about the level of need in your nursery cohort - we will provide a **summary report** for the group of children assessed
- Get free training for your staff - you can attend a **free CPD certified SLCN webinar training session** for all early years practitioners, delivered by one of our speech and language therapists

Don't miss this opportunity to support the

development of a cutting-edge resource while benefiting your setting!

[Register your interest here](#)

Speech and Language News

According to NHS England figures, 63,000 children nationwide are waiting for community speech and language therapy. One mother, whose daughter has Down syndrome, has been fighting with her local council for 18 months to secure the crucial support her family desperately needs.

[Read more →](#)

Matt Baker “My neurodivergence is my superpower!”

[Read more →](#)

A new study identifies the astonishing capabilities of new-born brains and their ability to learn and process sound patterns.

[Read more →](#)

Leeds City Council launches 'Play Together, Talk Together' to support the building blocks of early speech and language.

[Read more →](#)

NAHT welcomes the DfE's £470 million investment in specialist SEND places but stresses that additional funding is needed to address the shortage of specialist services, including speech and language therapy.

[Read more →](#)

Screen time, Miss Rachel and language development.

[Read more →](#)

Wiltshire speech and language therapy services receive additional funding “to ensure a greater level of oversight and clarity in delivering a service that meets the needs of education settings, parents and children”.

[Read more →](#)

A pantomime dame from Devon finds that his stammer disappears as soon as he steps onto the stage.

[Read more →](#)

SENsible25 Conference Identification and Assessment

Crowne Plaza
Nottingham

14 Feb 2025 | 8:45am - 5pm

Early Bird Tickets
£55

Book today

<https://SENSibleSENCO.org.uk/events>



Don't miss the annual **SENsible SENCO** conference, taking place this February. This event is an excellent opportunity to connect with peers and deepen your knowledge.

[Get your early bird ticket here](#)



The Link Community

We're delighted to welcome nearly 3,000 of you (and counting) to *The Link Community*! If you haven't joined yet, now's the perfect time to explore the benefits of becoming a member, completely free of charge.



What's NEW for the Link Community members?

Hosted by our specialist speech and language therapists,

The TalkAways Podcast is our latest free resource for Link Community members.

Episode 1: Learning Vocabulary - available now.

[Listen Here](#)

Missed The Link Live? Catch Up On-Demand!

The Link Live 2024 speech and language day was a resounding success and we are delighted to announce that all sessions will be available for The Link Community members to watch.

Presentations from **Gary Aubin, Jean Gross and Kylie Rio-Wood** are now on-demand with additional presentations being added over the next few months. Don't forget to check back to get the latest updates.



[Catch up here](#)



Develop Your Skills with The Link Speech & Language CPD

Looking to deepen your understanding of speech, language, and communication needs? Written and delivered by our team of experienced speech and language therapists, the speech and language modules provide clear, practical strategies alongside personalised feedback.

The Language Course is made up of two modules. Each module will take an average of 2 hours per week over 8-10 weeks and is suitable for those who are new to SLCN and experienced practitioners alike.

[Course dates for 2025](#)

Module 1: *Introduction to Speech and Language*

Thursday 16th January

Thursday 24th April

Module 2: *Language Intervention*

Monday 20th January

Wednesday 7th May

Each module costs £225+VAT

(Module 1 must be completed before Module 2)

Link Community members receive 10% off all courses booked by 31st December 2024.

[Book here](#)

Join our Facebook group – Speech and Language Support for Schools

With over 3.9k members, our speech and language support community offers a friendly platform for all school staff supporting SLCN. Participants can ask questions, share advice and celebrate weekly wins!

We welcome all school staff who are keen to make a difference to the lives of pupils with SLCN.

Run by the speech and language therapists from Speech & Language Link, we're here to help!



[Join Now](#)



Let us know what you think!

Let us know what you think about the Speech & Language Newsletter by filling out this short form. We would really appreciate it!

[Click here to fill out the form](#)

Occasionally we would like to share with you our special offers on certain products, but we'd rather you receive what's relevant to you. Please click one or more boxes below if you'd like to hear more. Please note that these buttons will take you to the appropriate information page - once you are on this page, you have been added to the relevant list.

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