



At this time of year, it's the perfect opportunity to reflect on progress made and look ahead to the opportunities the rest of the academic year holds.

In the latest issue of *The Link* magazine, we review and reflect on the Link Live Speech and Language Day (November 2024), exploring the topics that sparked real interest. We're excited to address these discussions further in upcoming issues.

Also featured: what's new for our Link Community members, research opportunities, the latest **SLCN Blog** for secondary and of course, a round-up of the latest news from the world of SLCN.

Pop the kettle on, take 5 minutes and enjoy!



The Speech & Language Link team are out and about!

The Speech & Language Link events team will be hitting the road from next week and stopping at the **Tes SEND Show North in Bolton** (6-7th February). This will be the first time the event is hosted in this location, and we're really excited to meet everyone who will be attending on the day. We look forward to connecting with you and sharing ideas to support SLCN in schools.

The following week, we'll be in **Nottingham for the SENSible25 conference** and we couldn't be more delighted to be sponsoring the event! To add to the excitement, we'll be giving away **a year's subscription to any Speech & Language Link package** to one lucky delegate on the day. We can't wait to be part of this fantastic event and to spend time with those attending. See you there!

Speech and Language News

With the lowest number of speech and language therapists per head compared to any other region in the UK there is an urgent call for increase in speech and language

therapy services in Wales.

[Read more →](#)

Unusual growling sounds from baby as he communicates while playing.

[Read more →](#)

High expectations for the language and social skills of 2 year olds in a Bristol 'Good' school.

[Read more →](#)

One-stop hubs in St Helens support speech and language development to support the borough's disadvantaged children.

[Read more →](#)

Speech and communication difficulties more pronounced for children than previous year groups say teachers, with 44 per cent stating that they were "much less school-ready".

[Read more →](#)

Scottish schools Voice Box 2025 joke competition brightens up Blue Monday.

[Read more →](#)

Family Struggles with lengthy waiting lists for vital therapy services.

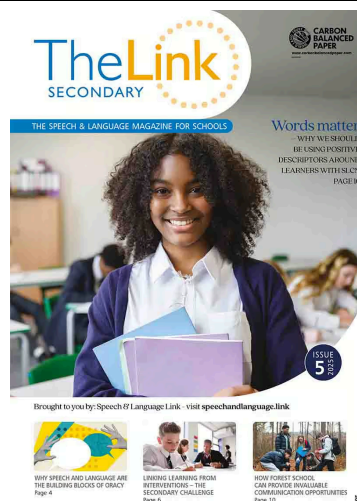
[Read more →](#)

NEW ISSUE!

The Link Secondary

Issue 5 in schools from next week!

[Access the full Link magazine library here](#)



TheLink
COMMUNITY

New for Link Community Members

If you haven't already signed up to our free speech and language resource hub, now's the time. To become a member just register below.

[Join the community here](#)



Latest Podcast

Boost classroom communication with specialist speech and language therapists, Alison and Juliet in their **Talkaways Podcast**.

Episode 1; Narrative Skills

Recalling and telling stories is a complex skill, particularly challenging for children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). In our first podcast in the Talkaways series, Alison and Juliet discuss how we can help children to successfully share their exciting news with others.

[Listen here](#)



New downloadable resource

Selected from our award-winning Infant Language Link primary package, the **Question Cue Cards** resource can help children develop understanding of question words in a variety of classroom situations.



[Download now](#)

Key presentations from The Link Live 2024

The latest presentation available from the Link Live 2024 is from Kylie Rio-Wood, Lead Speech and Language Therapist and Trust Lead for Speech and Language.

[Watch today](#)

Save the Date

The Link Live

Speech & Language Day 2025

Thursday 27th November online

Free for Link Community members



UK schools and nursery/pre-school settings. Join our research opportunities and reap great rewards for your setting!

Speech & Language Link is delighted to be working once again with the [University of Cambridge Psychometrics Centre](#) on two exciting research projects.



Our **Infant Language Link** project aims to

update and improve our current universal screening tool. We are looking for mainstream primary schools to join our standardisation study.

We still needs schools from the following areas:

- Scotland
- West Midlands
- East of England
- Greater London
- South West of England

[Register your interest here](#)



Our **Little Link** study will standardise our new early years universal screening

tool and test the effectiveness of our intervention package.

We are still recruiting nurseries and preschools in the following areas:

- Scotland
- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- London

[Register your interest here](#)

BETT Awards 2025 - Highly Commended!



We're thrilled that **Junior Language Link** received a Highly Commended award in the Bett Awards 2025 SEND and Inclusion Resources category and that [Secondary Language Link](#) reached the finalist stage!

[Find out more about Junior Language Link here](#)

SLCN Blog

Why it is Essential to Consider Students' Language Skills in Year 7

As a SENCO, identifying and supporting students with speech, language, and communication needs is vital. With effective strategies, your dedication can ensure no student is overlooked, helping them thrive academically and socially.



[Read the SLCN Blog](#)

Join us on Facebook!

With 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

6000+ of you now subscribe to the Speech & Language News, thank you so much for being part of our community. Why not forward this email to colleagues you think might also be interested? [They can subscribe directly here.](#)



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