



Welcome to your Link Community speech and language newsletter!

We hope you had a restful break! As the new term gets underway, there is plenty to catch up on. We've rounded up the latest speech, language and communication news, plus a look at what's new in The Link Community.

Keep an eye out for lots of fresh content and resources landing over the coming weeks!

-The Link Community Team

The Speech & Language Link team is out and about!

It's been a busy month for the Speech & Language Link team as we've been at SEND and education events across the UK. It's always a pleasure to meet so many of you in person, hear about the amazing work happening in your schools and talk about how our speech and language support packages, **Speech Link and Language Link** can help.

A real highlight was catching up with Imogen Berry, who joined us at The Link Live 2024 alongside her son Ioan.

Keep an eye on your Link Community page for their brilliant presentation recording, coming soon.

Events calendar

8th May - IGPP Seventh Annual SEND Conference, Manchester

22nd May - CST SEND and Inclusion Conference, Birmingham

Attending one of these events? Be sure to come and say hello!

The Link Community is an ERA Awards Finalist!

We are delighted that we have been shortlisted in two ERA Awards Categories.

[The Link Community](#) for Free Education Resource and [Secondary Language Link](#) for Special Education Resource or Equipment.

The winners are announced on 14th May!



Speech and Language News

World autism acceptance month - take the opportunity to change attitudes towards autism

[Read more →](#)

Therapist with autism uses lived experience to make a difference to others

[Read more →](#)

Create confident speakers in the classroom by teaching oracy

[Read more →](#)

New study links executive function to language skills

[Read more →](#)

Baby's first year milestones: what to expect each month

[Read more →](#)

In development - AI tool to detect speech sound disorders

[Read more →](#)

Childhood trauma and social vulnerability linked to lower brain white matter quality, impacting language and math skills

[Read more →](#)

NI council installs communication boards in play parks across its area

[Read more →](#)

Headteacher Update Podcast: Supporting SLCN in Primary Schools



Tune in to the latest episode of the *Headteacher Update* podcast, focusing on speech, language and communication needs in primary settings. This insightful episode features SENCos Ginny Bootman and Grace Maguire, along with Kate Freeman, consultant - speech and language in education. Together, they share practical advice and strategies tailored for school leaders, SENCos and classroom teachers.

[Listen here](#)

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 Link Community here](#)

Latest Podcast: Episode 4

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

Episode 4; Learning Vocabulary

We know that vocabulary knowledge forms a foundation for academic success. Alison and Juliet discuss ways in which we can support children to learn and remember new words.

[Listen here](#)

Free downloadable resource

Support your KS1 and 2 pupils with this super easy-to-use template to encourage listening for sounds.

[Download now](#)

NEW from The Link Live Speech & Language Day 2024

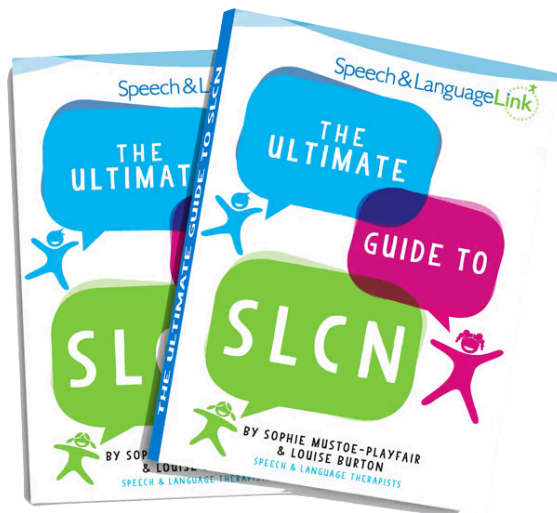
Effectively supporting your TA from Sara Alston, SEND & safeguarding consultant & trainer, part-time SENCo and author

The main learning objectives for her session are to:

1. Share information to build a picture of the whole child.
2. Discover ways to build a team around the child to ensure all children access Quality First Teaching and TA support.
3. Understand the importance of sharing and feedback.



[Watch today](#)



The Ultimate Guide to SLCN: APRIL SPOTLIGHT

This essential handbook has been written by our specialist speech and language therapists to help you support SLCN in the classroom. It covers all aspects of speech and language: from background information to tips for making your school more communication friendly.

This month's spotlight focus is ***The role of the speech and language therapist.***

[Read here](#)

The Link Live
Speech & Language Day 2025
Thursday 27th November, online
Free for Link Community members



Tickets go live on 1st June 2025

[Find out more](#)

There's still time to get involved!

Speech & Language Link is at the final stage of recruiting nursery and primary settings to help with two exciting research projects.



Our **Infant Language Link** national research project aims to update and improve our current universal screening tool. We are looking for mainstream primary schools to join this standardisation study.



Our **Little Link** national study will standardise our new early years universal screening tool and test the effectiveness of our intervention package.

[Register your interest here](#)



Join us on Facebook!

With over 3.9k members, our **Speech and Language Facebook group** provides a supportive space for school staff working with SLCN.

It's a place to **ask questions**, **exchange advice**, and **celebrate weekly wins!** We welcome all educators passionate about making a positive impact on students with SLCN. **Managed by the expert speech and language therapists** at Speech & Language Link.



[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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