



Hello and welcome to your Link Community newsletter.

As we wrap up another busy and rewarding school year, we want to say a big thank you for your continued dedication to supporting children with speech, language and communication needs. In this issue, we're celebrating the progress made, sharing some highlights from across the year, and giving you a few tips and reminders to take into the new term.

Wishing you all a restful and well-deserved summer break!

Best wishes, *The Link Community Team*

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## News from Speech & Language Link


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### So how did we do this year?


Let's start with A huge THANK YOU to all our Speech & Language Link subscribing schools for an incredible 2024–25 academic year!

Together, we've made a real difference in supporting children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

 **260,601** children aged 4–14 were screened for SLCN using our assessment tools!

 Which led to over **20,000** intervention groups either completed or underway – supporting **tens of 1,000s** of children with the help of our trusted tools.

 And you're never alone – this year, our SLCN Help Desk answered over **4,200 calls**, offering expert advice and guidance from our team of specialist speech and language therapists.

Want to join **1,000s** of schools making a real difference for their students?  :

[Get a free trial here](#)

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### Ben and Teddy are on their way!

We have so many new things share with you for the upcoming academic year and we kick off with our brand new nursery and preschool package **Little Link**!

**Little Link** is our exciting new preschool package developed to identify and support language difficulties in 3-5 year olds. **Little Link** is an engaging story-based screening tool which will identify children who need a little more support with their language and help you make the best of local specialist service where they are really needed.



Find out more and book your free trial



The activity-based interventions are designed to take place throughout the whole setting, rather than a small group format meaning there is no need for additional staff and space, and, every child benefits!

All training is included in the package and our specialist speech and language therapists are just a phone call or email away to offer their expertise.



### **Infant Language Link has a new school entry assessment!**

From September, **Infant Language Link** will have a brand new assessment for your school entry year. It is now **the fastest, most accurate, standardised assessment for understanding of language for Year R/P1.**

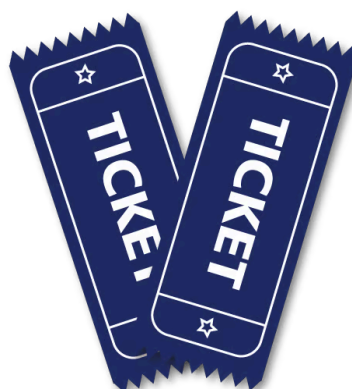
Experience for yourself how quick and accurate the assessment is by taking a free trial and make sure no child is left behind.

Book your free trial

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

### **Tickets are live**

Your **FREE TICKET** access code is available on your Link Community homepage.



Book your ticket

# The Link CPD Speech and Language Course

## Module 1: Introduction to Speech and Language



This module develops your understanding of what is meant by 'speech', 'language' and 'communication' and how children acquire speech and language skills.

### Course Details

**Duration:** 2 hours per week over 8–10 weeks

**Suitable for:** Staff working with primary-aged pupils (4–11 years)

**Start Date:** 8th October 2025

## Module 2: Language Intervention

Learn how to identify and support language difficulties in school, use effective classroom strategies, plan and deliver targeted interventions, and measure progress.

[Find out more here](#)

### Course Details

**Duration:** 2 hours per week over 8–10 weeks

**Suitable for:** Staff working with primary-aged pupils (4–11 years)

**Start Date:** 23rd September 2025

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## New for Link Community Members

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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](#)

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## TalkAways Podcast

Boost classroom communication with our specialist speech and language therapists, Alison and Juliet. In the last in the series of their **TalkAways Podcast**, Alison and Juliet discuss ways in which we support children to develop the skills required to work collaboratively.

[Listen now](#)

Missed an episode? All past podcast episodes are available on The Link Community.

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## NEW from The Link Live Speech & Language Day 2024

Ioan Berry was joined by his family in the final part of The Link Live 2025.

Ioan has Developmental Language Delay (DLD) and delivered a moving and motivating session about his life with DLD, his support network growing up and offered advice to those supporting young people living with DLD. His mum and brother offered differing perspectives and added support advice and tips.

[Watch today](#)

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## The Ultimate Guide to SLCN: JULY SPOTLIGHT

This essential guide was put together by our specialist speech and language therapists to help you support students with SLCN in the classroom. Inside, you'll find everything from useful background info to practical tips for making your school a more communication friendly place. It's everything you need to feel more confident supporting speech and language needs day to day!

Read  
now

**This month's spotlight focus is Autism Spectrum Disorder.**

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## Speech and Language News

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Non-verbal communication can be like “decoding a complex, unwritten language in real time”

[Read more →](#)

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The National Literacy Trust will distribute over 72,000 new books to children in areas with the highest rates of child poverty to support positive reading habits at home as part of the 2026 National Year of Reading campaign.

[Read more →](#)

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Deafinitely Theatre returns with ground breaking BSL acting course – England's only deaf-led training programme

[Read more →](#)

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DfE launches £1.7m Assistive Tech Pilot for SEND pupils with 'try before you buy' device libraries

[Read more →](#)

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“Unbelievable!” – 9-Year-Old Girl from Gateshead gets Downing Street response after campaigning for BSL in schools

[Read more →](#)

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Babies begin forming ideas about words and their meanings surprisingly early—**as young as 6 to 9 months old**, even before they can speak or always see what a word refers to.

[Read more →](#)

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Beyond Words releases new word-free book *The Cheeky Seagull*, co-authored by individuals with learning disabilities

[Read more →](#)

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## International News

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Study to determine the prevalence of language delay among children under five years of age in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

[Read more →](#)

“Sign language is not charity, it’s justice”

[Read more →](#)

“Growing up with a brother with Global Developmental Delay has made me want to be a speech therapist!”

[Read more →](#)

## Join 1000's on the Facebook group!

Join our Speech and Language Facebook group — a supportive community of over 3,900 members dedicated to helping school staff support students with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

Whether you're looking to ask questions, share advice, or celebrate weekly wins, this is the place for passionate educators who want to make a difference.

The group is proudly managed by speech and language therapists from Speech & Language Link.



[Join Now](#)

7000+ 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.](#)



Sent to: [helpdesk@speechlink.co.uk](mailto:helpdesk@speechlink.co.uk)

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