



Hello and welcome to your October SLCN newsletter from The Link Community.

October 17th marked **Developmental Language Disorder Day (#DLDDay)**, now in its **7th year** and celebrated across the globe with **over 40 countries** taking part. This year's theme, **"You can't see DLD,"** sparked a great discussion in our team meeting about raising awareness of this often-hidden condition.



We are sure you will have seen today's announcement that the government's SEND White Paper has been delayed until early next year. The reforms will be based on five principles. These are:

- Early - that children should receive the support they need as soon as possible.
- Local - that children with SEND should be able to learn at a school that is close to their home.
- Fair - ensuring every school should be resourced and able to meet common and predictable needs.
- Effective - that reforms should be grounded in evidence, ensuring that all schools know where to go to find effective practice.
- Shared - ensuring education, health and care services should work in partnership with one another, local government, families, teachers, experts and representative bodies.

Speech & Language Link welcomes these principles and looks forward to the full report next year.

In this month's newsletter...

We're delighted that our [Infant Language Link](#) package received favourable mentions in the report [*"Supporting stammering, speech, and language needs in the early years: a rapid evidence review with case studies on working together"*](#) (DfE, 2025). See our full report below.

Also catch up on the latest SLCN news from the UK and around the world.

Check out our latest blog

and find out what's new for Link Community members.

Best wishes, *The Link Community Team*

We've been out and about!

It's been a busy few weeks for the Speech & Language Link team, travelling to conferences and events across the country. We were thrilled to launch *Little Link* in Cardiff, Surrey and at the Tes SEN Show – where our brand-new *Little Link* tote bags were a big hit!

At the Tes SEN Show in London, **Kate Freeman**, consultant - speech and language therapist in education, delivered a *sell-out* session, **"If SLCN is the answer, what is the question?"**

Afterwards, she joined the Speech & Language Link stand to speak with lots of fantastic delegates, eager to learn more about supporting their pupils with SLCN.



Events next term

Education People Show, Maidstone - 12th November

Eighth Annual SEND Conference, London - 19th November

Surrey SEND Conference, Epsom - 27th November

RCSLT Conference: 80 years and beyond, Online - 26th-27th November

We're excited to be exhibiting at tes SEND Show North this March! Our Link Community team member, Nancy, is also part of the tes SEND Show Advisory Board — and she's got an exclusive 20% off code for you below.



SEND Show North 2026

13-14 March

Emirates Old Trafford
Cricket Ground

LEARN MORE

Advisory Board member

Nancy Hamling
Marketing and Events
Executive
Speech & Language Link



#tesSENDShowNorth2026

Enter AB20 at checkout for **20% OFF** your seminar ticket

The latest Link Primary and Link Secondary magazines are in your schools now!

Didn't see your printed copy? Read online through *The Link Community* [here](#).

The latest **Primary Issue** is packed with exciting updates! Discover **Little Link**, our brand-new nursery package, get expert insight from our resident therapist on what **standardised assessments** really are (and why they matter) and don't miss our inspiring interview with **Year 5 teacher Molly Medhurst**, who shares her passion for language, learning, and making sure every pupil's voice is heard.



The newest **Secondary Issue** dives into the importance of **screening for language difficulties in Year 7**, shares an inspiring account of how a **student speech and language therapist promotes inclusivity through sport** and explores practical ways to **empower students with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)**.

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



TalkAways Podcast

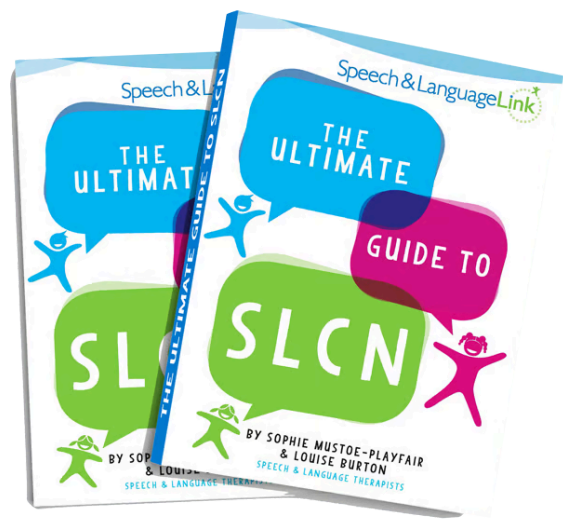
Boost classroom communication with our specialist speech and language therapists, Alison and Juliet, in their **TalkAways Podcast**. All six episodes are now available to watch for Link Community members.

Listen now

The Ultimate Guide to SLCN: OCTOBER 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!



This month's spotlight focus is Language Disorder and Developmental Language Disorder

[Read here](#)

DfE's rapid evidence review highlights *Infant Language Link* for positive impact



DfE's rapid evidence review highlights **Infant Language Link** for positive impact. Read specialist speech and language therapist Yin Collighan's article on how settings can better support children with speech, language and communication needs using the award-winning Infant Language Link package.

[Read here](#)

Speech and Language News

The government has postponed reforms to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system, along with other school policy proposals in England, until next year.

[Read more →](#)

Improved school support for Barnsley pupils with autism spectrum disorder, social, emotional and mental health needs and speech, language and communication needs.

[Read more →](#)

Man shares how speech therapy boosted his confidence and independence.

[Read more →](#)

Babies recognise familiar voices *and* languages before they are even born.

[Read more →](#)

Digital games have the potential to support vocabulary learning.

[Read more →](#)

A University of the Highlands and Islands student is creating AI technology to enable real-time conversations between signers and non-signers — using just a smartphone camera.

[Read more →](#)

International News

Early intervention is key to address the 5% of children in Turkey who have speech difficulties - says expert.

[Read more →](#)

A UdeM-led team of neuropsychology researchers has found that your brain can attune itself to a foreign language before you're born? It can.

[Read more →](#)

The Link Live Speech & Language Day 2025

Thursday 30th April 2026, online

Free for Link Community members

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



[Find out more](#)

Join us on Facebook!

Join our Speech and Language Facebook group — a supportive community of over 4000 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](#)

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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Speech Link Multimedia Ltd, Canterbury Innovation Centre, University Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7FG, United Kingdom