

Additional Resources and Support

There is a wide range of other guidance available to help practitioners deliver the Reforms which **Communicating the Code** seeks to add to rather than duplicate.

General guidance on the Reforms relevant to speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)

- The Code itself, alongside a wide range of supporting information and guidance, is available from the Department of Education at www.gov.uk/childrens-services/special-educational-needs.
- The SEND Pathfinder website shares learning from the pathfinders and pathfinder champions in order to support the delivery of the reforms - www.sendpathfinder.co.uk
- The Council for Disabled Children provides a wide range of information and guidance relating to the changes under the Reforms - www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sendreforms
- NASEN has provided detailed guidance for educational settings in Everybody Included: The SEND Code of Practice explained which gives key guidance on delivering the Code: www.nasen.org.uk/onlinesendcpd
- The Dyslexia SpLD Trust, another of the organisations named as offering support and guidance in the Code, has produced specific guidance on the SEND Reforms, available at www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk
- The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists' website includes a number of briefings and other information on the Reforms, which you can find at www.rcslt.org/governments/policy_and_campaigns and at www.rcslt.org/speech_and_language_therapy/commissioning/intro

The Communication Trust is committed to supporting all those implementing the SEND Reforms to meet the needs of children and young people with SLCN and their families. You can find all our other guidance and resources relating to the Reforms at

www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/sendreforms.

The Trust and its Consortium of not-for-profit organisations have a wide range of additional guidance on supporting children and young people with SLCN relevant to the Reforms.

General information on SLCN and identification

Afasic parent helpline- a free phone helpline to help parents help you understand their child's difficulties, what help they need and how to get it.

Find out more [here](#).

Don't Get Me Wrong- for those who have some understanding of SLCN but would like to find out more. It's full of useful information and advice and is ideal for SENCOs and teaching assistants.

It can be downloaded [here](#).

I CAN enquiry service- call-back service providing expert information from Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) for parents and practitioners about speech, language and communication.

Find out more [here](#).

Misunderstood- explains more about what SLCN are and includes advice and guidance on how to support communication development.

Find out more [here](#).

Other Ways of Speaking- provides information about young people who use a variety of different ways to communicate, how to support them and where to go for further information.

Find our more [here](#).

Talking Point- is the first stop for information on children's communication, a website with a range of information about SLCN.

www.talkingpoint.org.uk

The Better Communication Research Programme Digests- Working with Better Communication CIC and Symbol UK, The Communication Trust has launched information to help share the findings of the Better Communication Research Programme with commissioners and parents.

www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/bettercommunicationresearchprogramme

The SLI Handbook- written by I CAN and Afasic, the handbook explains what a specific language impairment(SLI) is, gives advice and support and shows how to find further information.

Find out more [here](#).

Communicating The Code

Children and Young People at the Centre



Through The Eyes Of A Child- four films to help parents encourage their children's communication development. Narrated by comedian Kathy Burke, the films are full of useful advice on how parents can encourage their child to talk and interact with them.

Find out more at:

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/latest-news/films-for-parents/>

Universally Speaking- shows where children and young people should be with their communication skills at any given age from 0-18. The booklets can help you to find out whether the children/young people you work with are on the right track, what helps them learn to talk and listen, and what to do if you have concerns about any of their communication abilities.

Find out more [here](#).

Mencap -free guidance on parent and young people's rights under the new system, outcome setting, and getting an EHC plan. They also have free resources outlining what's stayed the same and what's changed in the new SEN system as well as an overview of the reforms, including an easy read version. Access these resources [here](#). They have also produced an easy read overview of the SEND Code of Practice, which you can find [here](#).

Sense - a guide designed to help families understand the new SEND system. It explains the main changes taking place and provides a step-by-step guide to the new processes. It also highlights aspects of the changes which are particularly relevant to deaf blindness.

Access this free guide [here](#).

Involving Children and Young People with SLCN and their families (and outcome setting)

- For more detailed information on communicating with children with SLCN, *Listening to Children and Young People with Speech, Language and Communication Needs*, edited by Sue Roulstone and Sharynne McLeod can be purchased at:
<http://www.jr-press.co.uk/communication-needs.html>
 - ***Person centred planning toolkit***- The Autism Education Trust have developed this toolkit to support person centred planning for children with communication needs,
<http://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/resources/person-centred-planning-toolkits.aspx>
 - ***Helen Sanderson Associates*** - online resources to assist with outcome settings at
www.helensandersonassociates.com
 - ***Pathfinder information packs*** –those on engaging children and young people and their and families contain useful information - the most recent pack can be found here-
<http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/infopacks/ep/>
 - ***Participation Works*** - a partnership of several agencies focusing on involving children and young people effectively. They have a number of resources, including How to Guides which may be useful, for example 'How to involve Children and young people with communication impairments in decision-making'
http://www.participationworks.org.uk/files/webfm/shop_files/howto_Communication.pdf
 - And '***How to involve children and young people in commissioning***'
<http://www.participationworks.org.uk/resources/how-to-involve-children-and-young-people-in-commissioning>
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Resources for parents

- ***Small Talk***- provides information about what helps children aged 0-5 learn to talk and listen, whether they're on the right track and what to do if you have concerns about your child. Small Talk is a resource aimed at parents that Early Years practitioners are encouraged to pass on.

Find out more:

<http://icancharity.org.uk/resources/small-talk>

- ***The National Deaf Children's Society***- has produced an FAQ document for parents outlining their understanding of what the SEND Reforms mean for parents of deaf children.

You can find it [here](#).

- ***Children and Young People's Consultation***- The Trust spoke with a number of children and young people to discover their views on the role adults play in supporting communication skills. This consultation reports what the young people said and their recommendations to the children's workforce.

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-practitioners/children-and-young-peoples-consultation/>

- ***Special Needs Jungle*** - provides parent-centred information, news, resources and informed opinion about SEN, disability, children's health and SEN politics

www.specialneedsjungle.com

Workforce development and training

- ***Communication Consortium 0-25 Catalogue***- The Trust's Consortium is a group of over 50 voluntary and community sector organisations that provide a vast range of resources and services relating to children and young people's speech, language and communication – you can find out about all that they provide in this catalogue including lots of workforce development and training resources
www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/consortiumcatalogue
- ***Let's Talk About It***- provides advice and guidance on children and young people's communication development specifically for new teachers or those still in training.
Find out more [here](#).
- ***Level 3 Award in Supporting Children and Young People's Speech Language and Communication (Number: 4337)***- a new Level 3 Award designed for Early Years practitioners and teaching assistants from all educational settings, support staff in a variety of childcare, health, social care, play work and youth justice settings.
Find out more at:
<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/projects/professional-development/platform-3/>
- ***Listen To Us*** is a training resource to support professional development in SLCN, mainly reflecting specific language impairments (SLI) which can be used to think about how professionals involve those with SLCN. It includes a DVD showing children and young people with SLCN and a supporting booklet, offering some questions for reflection.
Find out more [here](#).
- ***The Children and Young People's Workforce Diploma: Mandatory Speech, Language and Communication Unit in the Early Years Pathway (EYMP5)*** - the Trust has produced free, expertly written materials for trainers and learners to support the delivery of the Early Years Mandatory Pathway Unit 5 which are available here:
<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/projects/professional-development/qualifications-form/>

- ***The Speech, Language and Communication Framework (SLCF)*** - outlines what you need to know and be able to do in order to support children and young people's communication. The SLCF is an online self-audit tool which signposts you to training to help develop the areas you are less confident in.
Find it [here](#).
- The Communication Trust have designed a ***short course to support early years practitioners*** to understand more about children's speech language and communication development.
Find it at:
<http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/Storyline/Story.html>
- ***A Generation Adrift***- makes the case for case for speech, language and communication to take a central role in schools' policy and practice for schools and brings together the latest evidence, policy and practical solutions.
Access the document [here](#).
- ***The Communication Commitment***- a free online resource to ensure all students including those with SLCN communicate to the best of their ability by developing a whole-school approach to communication. The Commitment has been updated in light of the Code and offers practical ideas and resources to support schools in their specific duties under the Reforms.
www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/commitment
- ***The Progression Tools*** - aim to support teaching staff to identify children and young people who may be struggling to develop their speech, language and communication skills. They can also be used to track progression of these skills over time or following interventions and could be used as an important link in the 'assess', 'plan' and 'review' cycles of the graduated approach.
Tools are available for:
[Early Years](#)
[Primary School](#)
[Secondary School](#)

- **What Works** - a moderated virtual library of evidenced interventions to support children's speech, language and communication. **What Works** is for any practitioner who makes decisions about which interventions to use in their setting such as Early Years practitioners, Head teachers, teachers, Speech and Language Therapists and other specialist staff. A new factsheet highlights sections of the Code that relate to evidence-based provision and suggests ways in which What Works can support practitioners in light of the 2014 Code.

www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/whatworks

- **The CSC Observation Tool** - developed as part of the Better Communication Research Programme. It is based on a detailed review of the research literature regarding what aspects of the classroom support the development of communication.

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/cedar/better/cscobsvt/>

- **Talking Mats** - can be hugely useful in enabling conversations and providing a visual record of what has been discussed.

www.talkingmats.com

For talking with children and young people also see:

www.talkingmats.com/get-children-young-people-talking-mats-resource/

For talking with young children:

www.talkingmats.com/consulting-children-early-years-2/

For information on listening to teenagers go to:

www.talkingmats.com/talking-listening-teens/

Early Years & Schools

- The Communication Trust has gathered all their *early years resources* in one place for ease of access:
www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/early-years
 - *The Council for Disabled Children (CDC)* - have set up a portal via which you can access Early Years information and resources from a wide range of providers.
 - *No Pens Day Wednesday*- a national event which encourages schools to spend a whole day focussing just on speaking and listening activities. Free lesson plans, resources and guidance are available to support mainstream schools, early years settings and specialist provision.
www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/nopensdaywednesday
 - *Talking point progress checker*- an easy to use tool to support parents to check the progress of their child's communication development against age related expectations.
www.talkingpoint.org.uk/progress-checker
 - *Talk of the Town*- offers a systematic approach to supporting speech, language and communication following key principles of practice and a systematic process of delivery. It aims to facilitate early identification, encourage joined up working and improve outcomes for children SLCN. It addresses the worryingly high level of language delay that exists, especially in areas of social deprivation.
www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/projects/talk-of-the-town/
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Post 16 Institutions

- ***I CAN Talk 8: Skills for Work, Skills for Life***- highlights the need to improve the communication skills of young people to help them find and retain jobs.
Find it [here](#)
- ***I CAN Talk 10: Speech, Language and Communication in Secondary Aged Pupils***- outlines the main issues in young people's language and communication during the secondary phase of education. It discusses key influences and issues, and suggests ways forward.
Find it [here](#)
- Raising the achievements of children and young people with specific speech and language difficulties and other special educational needs through school, to work and college.
Available [here](#)

EHC Plans

- ***The Council for Disabled Children (CDC)*** - have produced a number of templates for areas to consider. CDC EHC sample plans are [here](#).
 - ***Provider guides to personalisation, personal budgets and EHC plans*** - are free resources from KIDS to support organisations that provide support to disabled children, young people and their families.
www.kids.org.uk/publications
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Joint Commissioning

- **Better Communication: Shaping Speech, Language and Communication Services for Children and Young People**- explains approaches across budgets, professional disciplines and localities. Find out how to shape universal services and make provision for young people with additional needs [here](#).
- **SLCN commissioning tools**- will help Commissioners and service providers to improve the system and services to achieve better outcomes for young people with SLCN. Follow this [link](#) to view the detail of the tools.
- **Two Years On: final report of the Communication Champion for children**- Jean Gross made 30 recommendations to Government, Local Authorities, the voluntary sector and schools on the future of speech, language and communication services for children based on findings from meetings with 105 out of the 152 Local Authority/NHS Primary Care Trust commissioning pairings in England. Access the report [here](#).
- **Schools as commissioners**- The Communication Champion developed a document which gives general advice for schools on commissioning services for speech, language and communication available [here](#). The RCSLT and Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice (ASLTIP) have developed a guide on commissioning Speech and Language Therapy services available [here](#).
- **Commissioning national services for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)**- the following documents on commissioning national services for AAC provision in England are published by the Office of the Communication Champion and Council to support specialised commissioning- [A Model Service Specification](#) and [Final Report](#).
- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication Quality Standards**- these standards documents, published by Communication Matters, aim to describe national good practice and principles for people who need and use AAC services: [AAC Services Standards](#) (August 2012) and [AAC Quality Standard for Commissioners](#) (September 2011).

- ***Meeting the needs of children and young people with sensory impairments: Advice to local authority commissioners*** - is a best practice guide written by Sense, RNIB, NDCS and Blind Children UK for local authority commissioners.
Find it [here](#)
 - ***Implementing the SEND reforms: joint commissioning for children and young people with speech, language and communication need*** is a free online report produced by Better Communication CIC on behalf of The Communication Council in partnership with The Communication Trust providing practical information regarding commissioning for SLCN services within the context of implementing the SEND Reforms.
www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/slcncommissioningreport
 - ***How to commission for personalisation*** - is guidance from KIDS for commissioners and others in children and young people's services updated from a previous guide to support the personalisation agenda and Children and Families Act 2014. KIDS have also updated and extended their guide for families on personal budgets and direct payments for disabled children and young people and their families.
The guidance is available [here](#).
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Youth Custody

- ***Universally Speaking***- shows where children and young people should be with their communication skills at any given age from 0-18. The booklets can help you to find out whether the children/young people you work with are on the right track, what helps them learn to talk and listen, and what to do if you have concerns about any of their communication abilities.
Find out more [here](#)
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Available [here](#)
- ***Sentence Trouble*** - a guide to help improve understanding and communication with children and young people, particular those with communication needs. It has been written for everyone that works or volunteers in Youth Offending Teams (YOT), Secure Children's Homes, Secure Training Centres and Young Offenders Institutions (YOI).
Please click [here](#) to download.
- ***Doing justice to speech language and communication needs*** - report from The Communication Trust that brings together the key messages and recommendations from a round table event held in November 2014. It aims to provide a platform from which practitioners, services and policy makers can think about the different approaches, challenges and opportunities to improve outcomes for children and young people with SLCN in the youth justice system.
Access the report [here](#)