

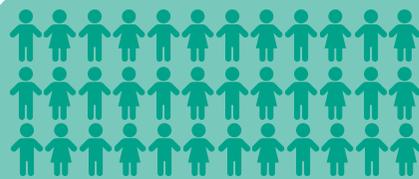
What is Platform 3?

Platform 3 is an evidence based, online route to completing the Level 3 accredited qualification: *Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication*.

Developed by The Communication Trust, the qualification supports the continuing professional development of anyone working with children and young people. The course aims to boost practitioners' knowledge and skills in:

- observing and recognising stages of development in speech, language and communication
- helping you to identify children who are experiencing difficulties
- developing your confidence in working with parents to support their child's speech, language and communication development.

As well as studying online, practitioners can also complete their assessment online too! Once enrolled, practitioners will be allocated a tutor to guide and support them throughout and they can study at their own pace, around work and family commitments!



1 million children



in the UK have speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)

(I CAN, 2016)

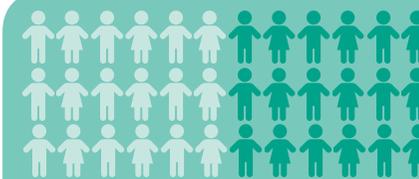


2 children



in every class will have clinically significant language difficulties

(Norbury, 2016)



50% of children



in some areas start school with delayed language

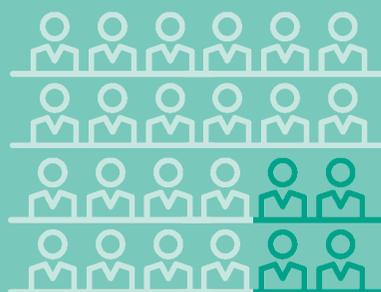
(The Communication Trust, 2013)



In primary schools

more children have SLCN than any other special need

(DfE, 2016)



80% of pupils

in some secondary schools have poor language skills

(Spencer et al, 2012)

Why is the qualification so important?

The importance of the qualification also links to a number of key governmental policy areas including:

- Children & Families Act 2014, SEND Code of Practice and SEND Reforms
- 30 hour free childcare entitlement
- 2 year progress check
- Early Years Foundation Stage
- Healthy Child Programme 0-19 years

“It made it very easy in being able to complete the qualification in my own time, without the pressure of having to do work every day, fitting it around other responsibilities.”

Why choose Platform 3?



A learner's perspective...

- You are able to study towards an accredited qualification at your own pace and at a time that's convenient for you. You may wish to do more hours some weeks and less on others; it is completely up to you!
- You will be able to choose from six units of professionally produced, quality assured online learning materials and portfolio tasks for assessment – these appeal to varying learning styles and can be accessed on desktops, laptops and tablets.
- Platform 3 allows you to upload your work to the online system for your tutor to access and provide specific feedback to pieces of work aligned to the assessment criteria.

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to complete the course. It was brilliant!”

“I felt extremely supported during my qualification.”

“Very good course in helping me to understand the children needs especially in the young age.”



An employer's perspective...

- Online learning can be more cost effective than traditional face-to-face learning as there are no classroom taught elements, keeping associated costs to a minimum.
- Learners are encouraged to complete activities throughout the qualification which allows them to embed their learning back into practice.
- By training your staff in this vital area, you will increase their knowledge, skills and confidence in identifying and supporting children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). This will help to minimise the impact that an SLCN may have on a child or young person.

“I did enjoy this course and have found it beneficial within my work place. I have ideas on ways that we can implement improvements to help and support the children that have additional needs”

Funding Platform 3

The cost to undertake the Level 3 Award through Platform 3 varies depending on which training provider you choose, the cost typically varies between £400-£450. Here are some ideas on how you could fund Platform 3:

- **Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)**
Platform 3 is a good example of effectively using the EYPP. The current amount payable to a setting per child is approximately £300 – this means that your setting could use this to fund the qualification for a member of staff in your setting.
- **Pupil Premium**
Pupil Premium attracts funding between £935 and £1320 per year, dependent on the age of the child or young person. This means that one child's Pupil Premium could potentially pay for 2 or 3 members of staff to undertake the qualification and develop their knowledge and skills around speech, language and communication!

Did you know...

In 2013-16, The Communication Trust received funding from the Department for Education to pilot **Platform 3** and it has since been trialled and tested by many practitioners across the country with a large number successfully completing their award.

Platform 3 has been successfully accepted onto the What Works training database! What Works training database brings together evaluated speech, language and communication training programmes. All programmes on the database have been independently reviewed by an expert professional academic.



Platform 3 has been proven to have a positive impact on the knowledge, skills and confidence of the workforce in both supporting the development of speech, language and communication skills as well as identifying those who are struggling. To read the independent evaluation reports authored by LKMco, visit our website: www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/what-is-platform-3

Platform 3: Study, Learn, Qualify

Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication



There is a learning pathway from the Speech, Language and Communication Framework (SLCF) to the Level 3 Award so why not assess your knowledge in speech, language and communication for free now: www.slcframework.org.uk

"Had excellent support and my tutor was very patient when I was having problems."

Interested in Platform 3?

A full list of the training providers who offer Platform 3 and links to their websites can be found on the Interested in Platform 3? page: www.platform3online.org.uk/interested-in-platform-3.html

If you are interested in delivering the Level 3 Award via Platform 3 get in touch with us at enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk for more information. Alternatively, if you are keen for a number of practitioners in your setting to gain the qualification we would suggest contacting your chosen training provider (see above) to find out if they can offer you a discount!



The Communication Trust
Every child understood

The Communication Trust is a coalition of more than 50 not-for-profit organisations. Working together, we support everyone who works with children and young people in England to promote speech, language and communication development.

Our vision is that every child and young person is enabled to communicate to the very best of their ability.