

Introduction to these resources for initial teacher education tutors

These materials are to help initial teacher education (ITE) tutors incorporate into their programmes an understanding of what Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) means and how children with such needs can be effectively included in the classroom.

They recognise the importance of inclusive practice and promoting positive attitudes about inclusion amongst student teachers, while at the same time, they provide crucial information on the difficulties faced by pupils with SLCN, and how these can be addressed in the classroom. The materials provide:

1. Information about Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)
2. Advice on how to identify and include children with these needs in the classroom
3. A series of case study exercises to help student teachers reflect on the issues involved.

The materials consist of the following resources:

Info sheets:

1. How children develop speech, language and communication skills
2. What are Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)?
3. Creating an inclusive classroom

Case studies:

1. Case study – Noah, Key Stage 1 English
2. Case study – Germain, Key Stage 2 English
3. Case Study – Stephen, Secondary English
4. Case Study – Stephen, Secondary Maths
5. Case Study – Stephen, Secondary Science

Each case study has a) an audio of the parent talking about the pupil's needs, b) contextual information with details about the lesson plan, c) a learning plan which sets out the learning targets for the pupil as developed with them, d) some tasks to help students engage with the case study.

The best way for students to use the materials is to read the three info sheets then choose the most applicable case study to work through. This will allow them to contextualize the

information in relation to real classroom issues.

The case study materials will ask them to refer back to the info sheets and other Communication Trust and Department for Education resources as they complete the tasks.

The case study exercises are at the heart of the materials and provide an opportunity for student teachers to begin to reflect on how they can link theoretical and practical knowledge about students together as they come to professional judgements about how to work effectively to include children with SLCN in the classroom. There are a variety of exercises across different phases and subjects, but we would typically expect students to complete only the exercise which matches their phase and subject most closely.

You may wish to consider using or adapting the case study exercises as directed tasks that link in to your core programme content on inclusion. This could work by asking students to complete an exercise at the start of the programme, and then, when they have had more experience of the classroom, to come back and review their responses and what might have changed at a later point in the course. They could also act as stimulus for discussion between students and school based mentors, classteachers or supervising university tutors.

The materials are designed to be used in addition to core content on inclusion and special educational needs students receive on your programme. We position them in terms of the SEND Code of Practice and the graduated response.

www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk

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

