

# The Link News

PUBLISHED BY SPEECH LINK MULTIMEDIA LTD



SPECIAL  
EDITION

Welcome to this special edition of The Link News during these extraordinary times. It is not surprising that we are all looking back trying to remember the days where we could meet our friends and family - even our work colleagues - without restriction; when it seemed so much easier to support children with their speech and language needs without social distancing.



This week, the Special Edition of The Link Magazine lands in schools. It focuses on helping you narrow the SLCN attainment gap (that has undoubtedly been exacerbated by Covid disruption) and also features the most outstanding offer, for your school, from Speech and Language Link.



## Narrowing the SLCN Attainment Gap

What toll has this pandemic taken on children in schools and especially those children with identified or unidentified speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)? Kate Freeman, Consultant - Speech and Language in Education, talks about the double disadvantage of Covid-19 and SLCN.

[Read More](#)



What's the best SLCN intervention package for your school?

Up to 50% of children in areas of social disadvantage start school with below average language skills, that are not adequate to support their next steps in learning.

SLCN, making SLCN intervention an obvious choice for catch-up funding to boost pupils' attainment this year.

These questions should be vital in deciding what SLCN package you need for your school:

- ◆ Does the package identify which children have SLCN?
- ◆ Does the package build SLCN knowledge and expertise throughout the school?
- ◆ Is there evidence that the package works and is it feasible to deliver in school?
- ◆ Does the package target specific areas of language for children, or is it one-size fits all?
- ◆ What happens after you have purchased the package?

Find out how Speech and Language Therapist - Louise Bingham - answered these questions in the article 'Choosing the best SLCN package for your school.'

[Read More](#)

### 3 questions to ask about every SEND intervention



Targeted SEND interventions can be effective – if schools ask the right questions at the start, says Nicole Dempsey.

### Have you listened to the new episode of The Teachers' Podcast yet?

The Teachers' Podcast provides additional support, and tips and ideas for teachers to use in their everyday lives. Listen to the most recent podcast now.



# TIPS to Boost Literacy



Speech and Language Therapist, Sophie Mustoe-Playfair talks about how early speech and language skills are the most significant predictor of a child's later literacy skills. Our spoken language skills are fundamental underpinnings of literacy because reading and writing are another medium for language. Developing confident readers and writers goes beyond phonics – we can boost literacy by building a good foundation of language skills.

In The Link Special Edition, Sophie provides strategies for boosting literacy that can be easily implemented. Why not

try this tip for developing phonological awareness.

✓ Make time to pause when you're reading a book (or just looking at the pictures) so you can talk about the sounds in the words. Think about rhyme, syllable clapping or tapping, and listening to the first sound in words. Find groups of words which share one feature in common

[Discover More Top Tips to Boost Literacy](#)

## The Link SPECIAL OFFER

Support for your children's speech and language needs.

Buy Language Link before 30th November and get Speech Link **FREE** for a year.

This includes UNLIMITED access to our speech and language Help Desk and in-package training.

Contact the Help Desk now:

**Email:** [office2@speechlink.co.uk](mailto:office2@speechlink.co.uk)

**Tel:** 0333 077 0784

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
BUY LANGUAGE LINK & GET SPEECH LINK FREE!

T&C APPLY

Speech Link Multimedia Ltd is proud to announce the launch of The Link CPD - our new Speech and Language training package for school staff. We have poured our passion and expertise into the development of this innovative new approach to short online courses, with a flexible modular structure to meet the individual needs of learners and their real-life practice.

## What are the benefits of LinkCPD?



*The Link CPD offers an affordable and practical professional development solution for your staff.* The whole school community will benefit from staff who are knowledgeable about speech, language and communication development and the advantages and practicalities of implementing a school-wide communication friendly environment.



Participating staff members will build their confidence and skill for working with pupils who have SLCN, which in turn will promote staff wellbeing, engagement, and effectiveness.



Your pupils will benefit from the development of an inclusive environment and support from staff who have a deep understanding of their needs and effective strategies to support them in and out of the classroom.



Staff will be more able to confidently deliver effective interventions and classroom support, which will improve outcomes for pupils who have SLCN.



A joint understanding of pupils' needs can be a springboard for improving communication and coordination with outside agencies, so the whole team around the child can work together more effectively.

[Find out more](#)

## The Blog

Raising awareness for  
Developmental Language Disorder  
(DLD)

Introducing Universal  
Communication Aids Into Your  
Classroom



We share our ideas on DLD Awareness Day for how you can help raise awareness of this important, but hidden, disorder.

Today, Sophie talks about how all pupils can benefit from communication aids, and how rolling these simple tools out across the classroom can help boost learners' confidence.

## SLCN in the News

### Sensory movement breaks tips for success.



Movement breaks are a frequently suggested sensory tool to help students increase their attention and readiness for learning. Like all sensory strategies, they should be individualised for each student.

### 'My stammer has made 2020 more difficult'.



Zoom quizzes, online lectures and working from home has been a challenge for all of us in 2020, but it's been even tougher for people with a stammer.

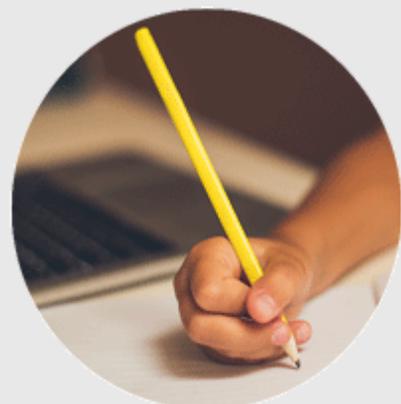
### Achievements of SLTs recognised in Queen's birthday honours.

Two SLTs are among those recognised by the Queen's birthday honours this year.



## North East talent awarded prizes for education contributions.

Outstanding students and school leaders awarded prestigious Lord Glenamara Memorial prizes for success and contributions to their communities.



## The Link Facebook Group

Schools - we're all supporting SLCN together! For the latest SLCN news along with tips, ideas and advice from our speech and language therapists join The Link FB Group today.

[Join Now](#)



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