

# Communication and Language

## ROAD MAP FOR EARLY YEARS SETTINGS



### Universal

#### Follow this map for all children

Start with the Communication and language educational programme from the **Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage** [www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2)

Use **Development Matters** [gov.uk/government/publications/development-matters--2](http://gov.uk/government/publications/development-matters--2) and/or **Birth to 5 Matters** [birthto5matters.org.uk](http://birthto5matters.org.uk) for further information about the phase of development for the children you are working with. Use the first columns to support your understanding of the steps in child development and the final columns for ideas for your learning environments and your role as the adult in supporting learning. Share **What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf** ([foundationyears.org.uk](http://foundationyears.org.uk)) with families

Use **Universally Speaking** for more information about the ages and stages of Communication and language development <https://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/professionals/tct-resources/universally-speaking>

Access child development **Communication and language training** for the age phase that you are working with, such as the ones available here [www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training) and find out who the Language lead is within your setting. Ask them to share the ideas they have received. Every setting should have a language lead. Apply to be yours here [Language Lead Form](#)

## Which is the best route for each unique child?

Some children will only ever take the universal road map to the early learning goals at the end of their reception year in school from the time that they start in their first early years setting, whilst other children may make a visit to some or all of the places on the targeted road map. Some children may go on to visit the specialist map once they have toured around the universal and targeted destinations with you.

Ensure that having fun with **letters and sounds** through early **phonics** is a part of your everyday routine for 3's and over <https://tinyurl.com/44hu769y>

Consider the 'Every Child a Talker' programme **ECAT Guidance**

NHS Start for Life Learning to talk 3 to 5 years - **NHS** ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

Look around for great ideas to support the implementation of your Communication and language curriculum, such as the resources on the **Speech and Language UK** website **Register for What Works - Speech and Language UK: Changing young lives** and the **National Literacy Trust** <https://literacytrust.org.uk>

Consider if your learning environments are Communication Friendly Spaces. Look on the website for support and advice <https://elizabethjarman.com>  
The Early Years Commitment helps you to address every aspect of communication development across your early years setting **Resource library for educators - Speech and Language UK: Changing young lives**

Undertake **The Lancashire Quality Award in Communication and Language** to fully self-evaluate and reflect on your whole setting practice and provision [www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/lancashire-quality-awards-programmes](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/lancashire-quality-awards-programmes)

### Targeted

Even if you have all of the knowledge, skills and understanding of all the places on the universal road map in place with your whole staff team, some children may need some additional support in order to learn and develop well within Communication and Language. Try out these more targeted approaches for those children

The **Speech, Language and Communication Framework (SLCF)** is a good tool to help you audit practitioners knowledge [www.slcframework.org.uk](http://www.slcframework.org.uk) The audit has been developed by The Communication Trust, the SLCF is a free online professional development tool which sets out the key skills and knowledge needed by the children and young people's workforce to support the speech, language and communication development of all children and young people.

Access some of the more specific fact sheets and support on the Speech and Language UK website **Resource library for educators - Speech and Language UK: Changing young lives**

Use the **WellComm** screening and assessment tool that enables you to identify and focus on particular difficulties that individual children may be having, with a structured support plan of ideas and activities/experiences to support their own developmental journey [www.gl-assessment.co.uk/assessments/products/wellcomm](http://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/assessments/products/wellcomm)

For 3- and 4-year-olds consider investing in the Early Talk Boost training and resources or Talk Boost for 4-7-year-olds. These provide a set series of focused sessions for you to undertake with a small group of children or individuals [www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/nursery-settings-and-schools-training-courses](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/nursery-settings-and-schools-training-courses)

Consider accessing the **Hanen** training 'Learning language and loving it' or 'ABC and Beyond' [www.hanen.org/Home.aspx](http://www.hanen.org/Home.aspx) or the **ELKLAN** training [www.elklan.co.uk](http://www.elklan.co.uk)

### Specialist

It's time to consider a **referral to Speech and Language Therapy services** with parents and carers if children are still not progressing well within Communication and language.

See "how to refer" section [www.lscft.nhs.uk/slt-how-to-refer](http://www.lscft.nhs.uk/slt-how-to-refer) where you can download a recent referral form, access the updated detailed guidance for when to refer children and young people and access an online referrer information session (16min PowerPoint video) for professionals who regularly refer.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

- Children's Speech and Language Therapy : **Blackpool Teaching Hospitals**
- Children's Speech and Language Therapy University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust ([uhmb.nhs.uk](http://uhmb.nhs.uk))
- Early Years Child Development Training: Supporting language development in the early years Early years child development training: **Home page** ([education.gov.uk](http://education.gov.uk))
- Early Years Evidence Store: Communication and language Early Years Evidence Store | EEF ([educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk](http://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk))