

About Speech Link



Your child's school is using a package called Speech Link to help identify and support children with speech difficulties. Here are some frequently asked questions about this approach.

What is Speech Link?

Speech Link is a tool that gives Teachers and Teaching Assistants the ability to assess children's speech development. It will identify speech delays and recommend speech sound programmes where necessary. The Speech Link Speech Screen will also identify children with more complex difficulties who require input from a Speech and Language Therapist.

What is the Speech Screen?

The computer based speech screening test is suitable for children between 4 and 8 years of age and takes around 10 minutes to complete. The screen consists of 40 easy pictures. Your child will be asked to name each one and their responses will be coded into the computer by the adult. At the end of the screen the computer will recommend age appropriate speech programmes with a suggested order of work. If your child has a more complex difficulty then the screen will recommend discussion with your local Speech and Language Therapy service.

What happens next?

Your child's school will download programmes and pictures from the web site. They are encouraged to provide you with a copy of the programme and some information sheets suggesting things that you can do at home to support your child's speech development.

If the screen has recommended discussion with the local Speech and Language Therapy service the school will contact them to receive more advice. This may result in a referral to the local clinic. You will be asked for your permission for this to take place.

How can I help?

Research has shown that parents can make a great difference to how quickly a child can learn new sounds. You can support your child and the school by working with your child at home when possible. The school will want to work in partnership with you so that practice at home and school gives the child a strong, consistent approach.

They may supply you with a copy of the programme as well as a leaflet about supporting speech difficulties. Keep a record of what you work on at home as this will be beneficial to your child and the school. Sharing a log book would allow you and the school to explore new ideas and to reinforce the programmes to provide good quality, consistent support for your child.

If possible write about family events and news as well. It's particularly important to include any names of family, friends or pets. This will help staff understand more of what your child is saying and will encourage your child to keep trying to communicate with school staff.