

SLC Bitesize

Seeking Help



Who will support my child's speech, language and communication development?

As parents and carers, you will likely spend more time with your child than their childminder, nursery key worker or class teacher. This means you are the expert on your child. It also means that you can make a real difference to your child's wellbeing, their future learning and their development in speech, language and communication. To support your child with their communication, follow the advice in this toolkit.

Your child will also be supported by whichever education setting they are in. The education professionals in all settings have a duty to support children with their speech and language development, and to take action if they have concerns. They support children with speech and language difficulties through putting strategies in place, creating a communication-friendly environment, or by carrying out groups focussed on developing language or social skills.

The Speech and Language Therapy Service can also support children who have significant needs, which require specialist support.

Other professionals who may support your child along the way include: Health Visitor, Healthy Child Programme Practitioners, Paediatrician, Educational Psychologist or Specialist Teachers.



For more information about the Speech and Language Therapy Service in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland: [Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service](#)



What if I'm concerned with my child's communication?

If you have concerns that your child's communication is not developing as you might expect, firstly speak to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) at your child's nursery or school. This is the professional responsible for ensuring children with special educational needs and disabilities are being supported appropriately, both by providing help in school and by referring on to other services. If your child does not attend a setting, speak to your Health Visitor or GP; they can also send referrals to other services.

The SENCo will guide you through what they feel your child needs. Most of the time, they will follow a 'graduated response'. This means starting with providing support in nursery/ school and reviewing if this is enough before exploring referrals to other services.

For your child to be referred to the Speech and Language Therapy Service, there typically needs to be evidence that things have been tried in nursery/ school first, but that this wasn't enough for your child to make progress.

There are two SLC Toolkits available to early years setting and school staff, linked below. These contain strategies and activities they can try with your child in their setting first. Share these with your child's nursery or school if they don't already know about them.



For more information about referrals: [Helping your child to learn - Rutland County Council](#)

SLC Toolkit - [Early Years Settings](#)

SLC Toolkit - [Primary School Age Children](#)



Useful links to explore:

[Health for Kids](#), [Health for Teens](#), [Health for Under 5s](#), [Rutland Local Offer](#), [Speech and Language UK](#), [Tiny Happy People](#), [Words for Life](#)