

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

Use **Development Matters** www.gov.uk/government/publications/development-matters--2 and/or **Birth to 5 Matters** <https://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 early years foundation stage' <https://tinyurl.com/4uzxv5ma> 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 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 <https://tinyurl.com/y82p4rxa>

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 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 **I Can** website <https://ican.org.uk> or on the 'Helpful info' section on the Hanen website www.hanen.org/Home.aspx The Hanen Guidebooks are also very useful

Consider purchasing 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

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

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

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 https://foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/ecat_guidance_for_practitioners_12.pdf

Encourage parents to access online resources such as those on **Hungry Little Minds** <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk> and **Tiny Happy People** www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people, as well as accessing local groups. Promote **Chat, play, read** with families.

Look around for great ideas to support the implementation of your Communication and language curriculum, such as the resources on the **I Can** website <https://ican.org.uk> 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 <https://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/professionals/tct-resources/more-resources/early-years-commitment/about-the-early-years>

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

Targeted

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 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

- www.lscft.nhs.uk/citns-slt
- The "My Child" page www.lscft.nhs.uk/slt-my-child for further general information and useful links
- The "How Can you Help your Child" section www.lscft.nhs.uk/slt-how-can-you-help-your-child for advice, resources and handouts to support children with different aspects of their speech, language and communication development
- The "Support for Schools and Nurseries" section www.lscft.nhs.uk/slt-support-schools-nurseries for more information on universal advice and targeted resources available to the wider workforce and our training information
- Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (bfwh.nhs.uk)
- Children's Speech and Language Therapy University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust (uhmb.nhs.uk)