



SPEECH & LANGUAGE

Understanding. Supporting. Empowering.
Happy voices. Stronger together. Thriving at Harlands.



WHAT IS SPEECH AND LANGUAGE?

Speech and language is how we communicate with others.

Speech is the sounds we make and how we say words.

Language is how we understand words and put them together to share ideas, feelings and information.

Some children need extra support with speech, language or communication. With the right support, they can build their confidence and reach their potential.



POSSIBLE CHARACTERISTICS

- ★ Late talking or limited vocabulary
- ★ Difficulty putting words together or forming sentences
- ★ Trouble understanding what is said
- ★ Difficulty following instructions
- ★ Finding it hard to take turns in conversation
- ★ Poor listening and attention skills
- ★ Difficulty with sounds (e.g. saying sounds incorrectly)
- ★ Stammering or disfluency
- ★ Difficulty expressing feelings or needs
- ★ Difficulty with story-telling or recalling events
- ★ Social communication difficulties
- ★ May become frustrated or withdrawn
- ★ Difficulties with reading and writing may also be present



STRENGTHS ASSOCIATED WITH GOOD SUPPORT

- ★ Improved confidence and self-esteem
- ★ Better communication and relationships
- ★ Stronger social skills
- ★ Greater ability to express feelings and ideas
- ★ Improved listening and understanding
- ★ Better learning and progress
- ★ Increased independence
- ★ Resilience and perseverance
- ★ Unique perspective and creativity
- ★ Many talents and strengths in other areas



HOW WE SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH SPEECH AND LANGUAGE AT HARLANDS

1 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT



- Early identification of needs.
- Observations by teachers and support staff.
- Use of screening and assessment tools.
- Liaison with parents/carers.
- Referrals to Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) services when needed.

2 LANGUAGE-RICH ENVIRONMENT



- Daily opportunities to listen, talk and communicate.
- High quality interactions with adults.
- Use of visuals, vocabulary and communication aids.
- Story-telling, songs, rhymes and discussion.
- Encouraging questions and curiosity.

3 TARGETED SUPPORT



- Small group or 1:1 interventions.
- Speech sound practice (e.g. sounds and pronunciation).
- Language and social communication groups.
- Support with understanding, expressing and using language.
- Stammer support strategies when appropriate.

4 INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM STRATEGIES



- Clear instructions and modelling.
- Visuals, gestures and scaffolding.
- Extra processing time.
- Opportunities to practise new language.
- Positive communication friendly classrooms.

5 STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT



- Ongoing training for staff on communication strategies.
- Access to specialist support and guidance.
- Sharing best practice across the school.

6 PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES



- Working together to share strategies.
- Sharing resources and ideas for home.
- Regular communication about progress.
- Inviting families to be involved in school life.

7 MONITORING AND REVIEW



- Regular review of targets and support.
- Celebrating progress and achievements.
- Adapting strategies to meet changing needs.

8 CELEBRATING COMMUNICATION



- We celebrate all forms of communication.
- We value effort, progress and individual strengths.
- Every voice matters!



Our goal is to create a nurturing, communication-friendly environment where every child feels heard, understood and empowered to express themselves and connect with others.



HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME



- ✓ Talk to your child every day.
- ✓ Listen and show interest in what they say.
- ✓ Read stories together and ask questions.
- ✓ Encourage new words and praise effort.
- ✓ Use simple, clear language.

- ✓ Give your child time to think and respond.
- ✓ Follow your child's lead in play.
- ✓ Reduce screen time and increase conversation time.
- ✓ Practice sounds and words in a fun way.
- ✓ Be patient, positive and celebrate progress.



USEFUL NATIONAL LINKS

- NHS – Speech and Language Therapy www.nhs.uk/conditions/speech-and-language-therapy
- ICAN – The Children's Communication Charity www.ican.org.uk
- The Communication Trust www.thecomunicationtrust.org.uk
- Afasic – Supporting Families www.afasic.org.uk
- RCSLT – Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists www.rcslt.org



USEFUL WEST SUSSEX LINKS

- West Sussex Local Offer (SEND Information) www.westsussex.gov.uk/local-offer
- West Sussex Child and Adolescent Speech and Language Therapy Service www.westsussex.gov.uk/caslts
- West Sussex Educational Psychology Service www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send
- West Sussex SENDIAS www.westsussexsendias.org.uk



At Harlands, we believe every child can succeed.
Together, we build confidence, resilience and brighter futures.

