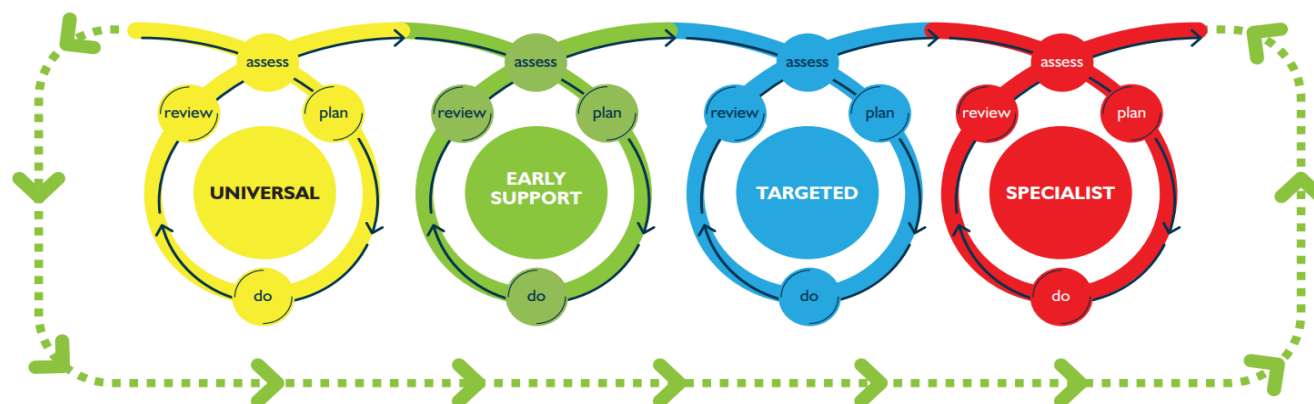


# A Graduated Approach to Speech, Language and Communication Needs in the Early Years



The St Helens Early Years Speech and Language Pathway follows a graduated approach to support your child's speech and language development. Here's how it works:

**Universal Support:** All children receive support at this level. This includes general strategies and activities to help with speech and language development.

**Early Support:** Some children may need additional short-term intervention. If your child needs more help, they will move to this level where they receive targeted support for a short period.

**Targeted Support:** If the short-term support at the Early Support level isn't enough, your child will move to Targeted Support. Here, interventions are longer and often include guidance from the Speech and Language Therapy team.

**Specialist Support:** A very small number of children may need even more help. At this level, children work directly with professionals from the Speech and Language Therapy team for specialized support.

This pathway ensures that every child gets the right level of support they need at the right time. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us – [EYHUB@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:EYHUB@sthelens.gov.uk)

This document is reviewed regularly and was created to inspire colleagues and to support them when working with children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs. Please amend it so it reflects your practice in your provision.

	Children			
	Universal	Early Support	Targeted	Specialist
For all age ranges- an overview	<p>Calm atmosphere Unique child Positive relationships Enabling environment Parents as partners Role of the key person Healthy Child Healthy diet 2 year old check</p>	<p>Individual timetable Meetings with parents Use visual support (objects of reference, photographs, symbols) Differentiate the curriculum Create an individual action plan (Individual Education Plan; Plan, Do, Review Plan)/SEND Support plan</p> <p>Follow the assessment cycle: Assess, Plan, Do a Review</p>	<p>Sending referrals to external agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Hubs interventions</li> </ul> <p><b>Speech and Language: How Babies Learn to Talk (coming soon), Tots Talking (from 18 months – 3 year olds), Chatterbox (from 2 to 3 year olds), Wizz Kids (Parents first educators (3-4))</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0-19 Team (Health Visitor,</li> <li>Community Nursery nurse, school nurse)</li> <li>Speech and Language Therapy</li> </ul> <p>Follow the assessment cycle: Assess, Plan, Do Review.</p>	<p>Ensure that any individual action plan (IEP; SEND Support Plan; Plan, Do Review Plan) has personalised targets suggested by all professionals involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bridge Centre Outreach</li> <li>Speech and Language Therapy</li> </ul> <p>Follow the assessment cycle: Assess, Plan, Do Review.</p>

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Birth -18 months	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interventions</b></p> <p><b>Groups/events available in the community such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Libraries <a href="#">Children and families - St Helens Borough Council</a></li> <li>- Children's Centres/Family Hubs</li> <li>- Early years childcare providers (childminders, private nurseries)</li> <li>- Community groups, church groups</li> <li>- Baby Clinic</li> <li>- 12 months development check completed by 0-19 Team</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interventions</b></p> <p><b>If a child attends a nursery,</b> the early years practitioners will try different speech and language strategies and they will start recording progress.</p> <p><b>If a child does not attend a nursery,</b> share your concerns with the community group leaders, Children's Centres/Family Hubs members, 0-19 Team (Community nursery nurse, health visitor), and GP. Visit the <i>St Helens Speech and Language Pathway</i> website for ideas on how to support your child's speech and language development:</p> <p><a href="#">St Helens Family Information Directory   The Early Years Speech &amp; Language Pathway</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interventions</b></p> <p><b>If a child attends a nursery,</b> the early years practitioners will discuss the child's progress and if appropriate they will make referrals.</p> <p><b>They might suggest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-How Babies Learn to Talk – delivered in the Family Hubs (coming soon)</li> <li>-Other community-based groups as listed at the <i>Universal level</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>If your child does not attend a nursery,</b> visit the Family Hubs/Children's Centres, or contact the 0-19 team (Community nursery nurse, health visitor) to ask for support.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interventions</b></p> <p><b>Speech and Language Therapy</b></p> <p>Parents who have concerns about their child's communication skills can make a referral by phoning</p> <p>01744 415 609.</p> <p>Referrals are received and processed at Speech and Language Therapy, Birch Unit, Peasley Cross Hospital, Marshall Cross Road, St Helens, WA9 3DE</p> <p><a href="https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/our-services/st-helens/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy">https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/our-services/st-helens/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy</a></p>
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18 months – 3 year olds	<p><b>Groups/events available in the community such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Libraries</li> <li>- Children’s Centres/Family Hubs</li> <li>- Early years childcare providers (childminders, private nurseries)</li> <li>- Community groups, church groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>If a child attends a nursery,</b> the early years practitioners will try different speech and language strategies and they will start recording progress.</p> <p><b>If a child does not attend a nursery,</b> share your concerns with the community group leaders, Children’s Centres/Family Hubs members, 0-19 Team (Community nursery nurse, health visitor), and GP. Visit the <i>St Helens Speech and Language Pathway</i> website for ideas on how to support your child’s speech and language development:</p> <p><a href="#">St Helens Family Information Directory   The Early Years Speech &amp; Language Pathway</a></p>	<p><b>If a child attends a nursery,</b> the early years practitioners will discuss the child’s progress and if appropriate they will make referrals.</p> <p><b>They might suggest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<b>Tots Talking</b>– delivered in the Family Hubs (18 months plus)</li> <li>- <b>Chatterbox</b> – delivered in the Family Hubs/Children’s Centres (24 months plus)</li> <li>-Other community-based groups as listed in the <i>Universal level</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>If your child does not attend a nursery,</b> visit the Family Hubs/Children’s Centres, or contact the 0-19 team (Community nursery nurse, health visitor) to ask for support.</p>	<p><b>Speech and Language Therapy</b></p> <p>Parents who have concerns about their child's communication skills can make a referral by phoning</p> <p>01744 415 609.</p> <p>Referrals are received and processed at Speech and Language Therapy, Birch Unit, Peasley Cross Hospital, Marshall Cross Road, St Helens, WA9 3DE</p> <p><a href="https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/our-services/st-helens/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy">https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/our-services/st-helens/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy</a></p>
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3-5 years	<p><b>Groups/events available in the community such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Libraries</li> <li>- Children's Centres/Family Hubs</li> <li>- Early years childcare providers (childminders, private nurseries)</li> <li>- Community groups, church groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>If a child attends a nursery,</b> the early years practitioners will try different speech and language strategies and they will start recording progress.</p> <p><b>If a child does not attend a nursery,</b> share your concerns with the community group leaders, Children's Centres/Family Hubs members, 0-19 Team (Community nursery nurse, health visitor), and GP. Visit the <i>St Helens Speech and Language Pathway</i> website for ideas on how to support your child's speech and language development:</p> <p><a href="#">St Helens Family Information Directory   The Early Years Speech &amp; Language Pathway</a></p>	<p><b>If a child attends a nursery,</b> the early years practitioners will discuss the child's progress and if appropriate they will make referrals.</p> <p><b>They might suggest:</b></p> <p><b>Chatterbox</b> – delivered in the Family Hubs  <b>Wizz Kids-</b> – delivered in the Family Hubs</p> <p>-Other community-based groups as listed in the <i>Universal level</i>.</p> <p><b>If your child does not attend a nursery,</b> visit the Family Hubs/Children's Centres, or contact the 0-19 team (Community nursery nurse, health visitor) to ask for support.</p>	<p><b>Speech and Language Therapy</b></p> <p>Parents who have concerns about their child's communication skills can make a referral by phoning</p> <p>01744 415 609.</p> <p>Referrals are received and processed at Speech and Language Therapy, Birch Unit, Peasley Cross Hospital, Marshall Cross Road, St Helens, WA9 3DE</p> <p><a href="https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/our-services/st-helens/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy">https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/our-services/st-helens/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy</a></p>
	<p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Development Matters/ Birth to Five Matters</p> <p><b>WellComm</b></p> <p>The complete speech and language toolkit, from screening to intervention (from September 2024)</p>	<p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Speech Language and Social Skills:</b> Every Child a Talker (ECAT) assessment – <i>suitable for 0-5 year olds</i></p> <p><b>Speech, Language, Communication:</b> Early Language Identification Measure (ELIM)- <i>suitable for 2-2.5-year-olds</i></p>	<p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Speech Language and Social Skills:</b> Every Child a Talker (ECAT) assessment- <i>suitable for 0-5 year olds</i></p> <p><b>Speech, Language, Communication:</b> Early Language Identification Measure (ELIM) -<i>suitable for 2-2.5-year-olds</i></p>	<p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Speech Language and Social Skills:</b> Every Child a Talker (ECAT) assessment -<i>suitable for 0-5 year olds</i></p> <p><b>Speech, Language, Communication:</b> Early Language Identification Measure (ELIM)- <i>suitable for 0-5 year olds</i></p>

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		<b>WellComm</b> The complete speech and language toolkit, from screening to intervention (from September 2024)	<b>WellComm</b> The complete speech and language toolkit, from screening to intervention (from September 2024)	<b>WellComm</b> The complete speech and language toolkit, from screening to intervention (from September 2024)
	<b>Links</b> Early Years Speech and Language Pathway: <a href="#">St Helens Family Information Directory   The Early Years Speech &amp; Language Pathway</a> <a href="#">St Helens Family Information Directory   Early Speech, Language and Communication</a>  Early Years Graduate Approach <a href="#">Tots Talking- Tots Talking - Speech and Language UK: Changing young lives</a>			
	<b>Staff in groups based/school-based provision</b>			
	<b>Universal</b>	<b>Targeted</b>	<b>Specialist</b>	
	Share the setting's SEND Policy and discuss the graduated Approach, identify the setting's SENCO. Ensure the setting's SENCO has allocated time at the team meetings/newsletters to increase staff's knowledge about SEND Ensure that a SEND policy states clearly what members of the staff need to do to share/raise concerns about children's needs. Review of workload, and careful consideration when allocating the key workers for the child with SEND. Positive praise/recognition of successes Regular supervision/appraisals for all staff	Supervision – Leaders to consider increasing the frequency of supervision for those members of staff who look after a child with SEND/Medical needs. Appraisals for all staff Training around EY SEND Regular review of the SEND Policy  Share with staff useful websites and information about available support for children with SEND and to support their quality of teaching.  Ensure that staff understand how to work in partnership with other agencies.  Make sure that SENCO and the child's key worker understand the professionals' recommendations create	Supervision – Leaders to consider increasing the frequency of supervision for those members of staff who look after a child with SEND/Medical needs. Appraisals for all staff Training around EY SEND Regular review of the SEND Policy  Share with staff useful websites and information about available support for children with SEND and to support their quality of teaching.  Ensure that staff have access to specialist training to upskill and increase subject knowledge.	

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		appropriate plans and follow the Plan, DO, Review cycle.	
	<b>Links</b> Resources for SENCOs: <a href="https://nasen.org.uk/">https://nasen.org.uk/</a>		

	Support for families		
	Advanced Solutions <a href="https://www.addvancedsolutions.co.uk/our-offers/our-offer-in-st-helens.html">https://www.addvancedsolutions.co.uk/our-offers/our-offer-in-st-helens.html</a> St Helens Carers Forum <a href="https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/SEND">SEND (sthelens.gov.uk)</a>		

### Version 3

Consulted at the EY SENCO Network on 24.10.23.

### Version 4

Links updates and added new targeted intervention- Whizz Kids for 3 + on 2.4.25



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