



Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

What causes Speech, Language and Communication difficulties?

For some children communication through speech and language is very difficult. A SLCN can be a result of various factors. Some of these factors can include: family history; premature birth; physical reasons and social reasons. In addition SLCN sometimes occurs as part of another disability, such as Down's syndrome, or a hearing impairment and in this case the SLCN is described as a secondary need.

What difficulties might children with SLCN encounter?

- they might have speech that is difficult for adults and other children to understand
- they might struggle to say words or sentences and this can be very frustrating for them
- they may not understand words that are being used, or the instructions they hear
- they may have difficulties knowing how to talk and listen to others in a conversation
- they may make unusual sounds when trying to communicate

Children may have some of these difficulties or they may exhibit all of these difficulties.

How can you help at home?

- show positive interest in what your child tries to tell you and encourage them to talk
- play alongside your child and talk about what you are doing
- help your child to understand when you are talking to them by using their name and looking at them
- play some action games together, sing songs and read to your child
- give your child "thinking time" to process what you are saying or when asking questions

Useful website

www.talkingpoint.org.uk