

December 2024

# JCT Newsletter

Communication is everyone's business.

## Welcome to our December Newsletter

This month we are focusing on the 'S' in SLCN - Speech.

At the JCT we are passionate about ensuring that all children and young people can access support around their speech development. In this newsletter we are going to share:

- Signs of speech sound difficulties to look out for
- Tips for supporting children and young people with speech disorders or delays
- Strategies for creating a communication friendly environment
- Information about accessing further support for speech development.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful end to 2024 - see you in the new year!

Aimee, Jos, Moira, Alison and Paul at the JCT

The JCT Team



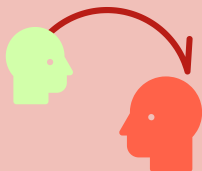
## Tip of the month

If you haven't understood what a young person is saying, don't pretend you have. Be honest and say 'I haven't understood but I really want to.' You could also blame your ears or the noisy room. Try asking the person to repeat themselves in a quieter space or communicate in a different way, such as writing, drawing or showing you what they want to say.

## Get in touch

E-mail: [inspirehf@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:inspirehf@lbhf.gov.uk)

Visit our website:  
[lbhfinspirehub.com](https://lbhfinspirehub.com)



## Upcoming Workshops:

We are excited to bring you another full schedule of training workshops for the Spring Term from January 2025.

Our Spring Term workshops will be bookable from the start of next Spring Term via our website:


<https://lbhfinspirehub.com/>

We will also be sharing workshop fliers, including our joint offer from JCT and CLCH shortly so look out for them in your inbox.

Next term we're looking forward to bringing you a number of new workshops as well as introducing our webinar series so that you can access training at a time that suits you.

We always welcome hearing your feedback on our training offer, so please don't hesitate to email us and let us know what you think.

Thank you to Amy Warner-Allen, Speech and Language Therapy Student, for contributions to this month's newsletter.



## Understanding Speech Sound Disorders (SSDs) and delays:

Speech sound development refers to a child's ability to produce clear and age appropriate sounds used in speech. While children develop at their own pace, some may experience speech sound delays (slower development of age appropriate speech sounds) and speech sound disorders (persistent difficulties in producing certain speech sounds).

Speech sound disorders is an umbrella term referring to any combination of difficulties that impact speech intelligibility.

These challenges may affect a child's ability to communicate effectively and express themselves fully, which can impact their confidence and learning. However, early support can make a significant difference in helping children overcome speech sound difficulties.

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### Tips for supporting speech sound development:

#### - 1. Create a communication friendly environment:

Encourage speaking in a relaxed and playful atmosphere. Avoid correcting mistakes directly, but instead model clear speech

- Provide opportunities for speaking through storytelling, roleplaying and singing

#### - 2. Simplify your speech:

- Use short, clear sentences and emphasise correct sounds subtly when responding. E.g., if a child says "tat" for "cat," reply, "Yes, it's a black cat."

#### - 3. Use visual cues:

- Use mirrors to encourage the child to develop awareness of their mouth and how it is moving.

- When modelling speech sounds to your child [including in phonics], make sure they are able to see your mouth and how it is moving

#### - 4. Practice through play:

- Use fun games to practise speech sounds. For example, treasure hunt games with toys that begin with 's'.

## Resources of the month:

Book

### "Help Your Child with a Speech Sound Disorder" by Caroline Bowen

*A parent-friendly guide with practical advice and activities to support children with speech difficulties.*

### Sound Development Checklist

*This is a really useful guide to typical ages and stages of speech development.*

[Click Here](#)

## Speech and Language Therapy

Some children benefit from specialist intervention around speech sound development.

If a child is age 6.5 and under and there are concerns around speech, they can be considered for a referral [or re-referral] to the Early Years SLT service in clinic.

If they are over 6.5, they can be considered for a referral to the school aged SLT Assessment and Advice clinic through either a GP or Paediatrician referral.

You can also discuss the pupils' needs with your link JCT Specialist Teacher for advice and referral guidance as needed.

More information here:

<https://clch.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy-children>