

**NHS**

# Speech & Language Therapy

for children and young people  
in Worcestershire



# Supporting Children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs

AFASIC 2015



# Who are we?

A team of speech and language therapists, speech and language therapy assistants and administrative support

*It is our mission is to provide support for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs, at an appropriate level, as early as possible, to maximise ability to achieve and thus improve life chances.*



# Where can you find us?

- Children's Centres
- Early Years settings
- Mainstream schools
- Specialist provision
  - ✓ CDCs
  - ✓ Language Classes
  - ✓ Mainstream Autism Bases
  - ✓ Special schools



# Children and Young People

- 10% of all children have long term or persistent speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)
- In Worcestershire this figure is equivalent to 12,000 children and young people aged 0-19 years, with over 6,000 children and young people known to the Speech and Language Therapy Service.
- We receive between 2,000-2,500 new referrals each year; approximately 65% of these referrals are for children aged 4 and under.



# What is SLCN?

Research considers SLCN in these three broad categories:

- Children with **primary** SLCN where language difficulties occur in the absence of any identified developmental or social cause
- Children with learning, sensory or physical difficulties as their primary need and language difficulties as a **secondary** need
- Children with SLCN associated with limited experiences, typically associated with socio-economic disadvantage





# The Building Blocks of Language



## Attention & Listening – what helps?

- Talking less! The less you talk the more they listen
- Reducing background noise
- Managing screen time



## Play & Interaction – what helps?

- Following the child's lead – copy and extend play
- Being explicit about social rules before you start e.g  
Can everyone win? No. Will it still be fun to play?  
Yes
- Avoiding long explanations particularly for a child who is distressed





## Understanding – what helps?

- Gaining attention first
- Telling instead of asking
- Keeping instructions simple & using first and next
- Showing as well as telling – using visual support
- Giving them time to process



## Talking – what helps?

- Commenting more and questioning less
- Introducing choice into activities whenever possible
- Expanding your child's sentences and modelling them back
- Giving a choice of answers helps children to participate



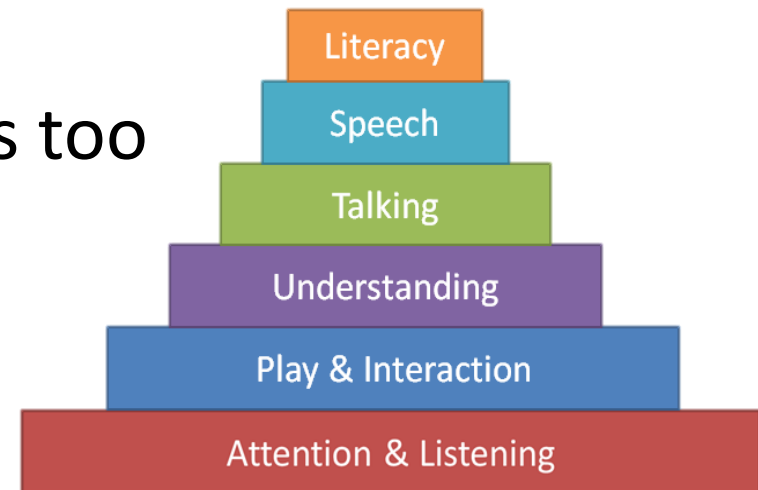
## Speech – what helps?

- Modelling words back with the correct sounds
- Making sure they can see your face
- Clapping new words out into syllables to help them store the sounds in words accurately.



## Literacy – what helps?

- Talking around the book when reading
- Retelling the story and guessing what might happen next
- Focusing on understanding as well as decoding
- Providing spoken word books too



# What does good provision look like?



UNIVERSAL

*Are there universal approaches in place to support language development across the setting or school?*

- Is there information and advice for parents?
- Is the environment communication and language friendly?
- What training have staff had?
- Are there whole setting/whole school approaches to ensure consistent and effective methods?



TARGETED

*Are there targeted interventions in place to offer specific support for children and young people with SLCN?*

- Is there regular liaison with SLT?
- Do school based staff have the competences and confidence to deliver small group interventions?
- Is there a programme of targeted interventions?
- Is effectiveness evaluated?





## SPECIALIST

*Is there specialist support available?*

- Are environments adapted and accessible?
- Do agencies work together to assess and support?
- Is there support for specialist individual interventions?





# Pre-School Service

- Named therapist service in Children's Centres with specialist involvement as needed
- Talking Walk-in service
- Outreach to Early Years Settings
- Individual and small group interventions
- Working in partnership with others



# School Service

- Named therapist service; with specialist involvement as needed
- Termly liaison
- Assessment and advice
- Working in partnership with others
- Support to deliver targeted and specialist interventions
- Communication TA scheme



# Training available



# Talking Matters



Every Child a Talker



# Get Worcestershire Talking

- Campaign to raise awareness of SLCN and to equip the workforce
- Events, initiatives, competitions
- Using social media
  - ▣ Facebook and Twitter
  - ▣ @SLT\_Worcs and @LforLearning
  - ▣ Posting tips, news and links
  - ▣ Sharing successes and positive outcomes



## Sources of further information...

- **Afasic** [www.afasic.org.uk](http://www.afasic.org.uk)
- **Communication Trust**  
<http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk>
- **Talking Point** [www.ican.org.uk/TalkingPoint](http://www.ican.org.uk/TalkingPoint)
- **Language for Learning** [www.languageforlearning.co.uk](http://www.languageforlearning.co.uk)



Worcestershire Speech and Language Therapy



SLT\_Worcs

