

Sefton Integrated Early Years Speech, Language and Communication Pathway





Introduction

In Sefton we strive for every child to develop and thrive, and we recognise the importance of speech, language and communication in the early years.

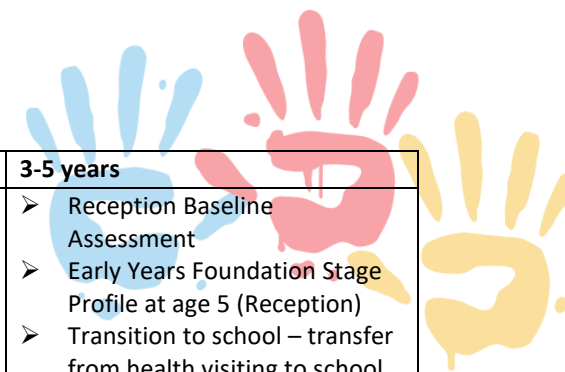
The first years of life are vital in giving every child the best start, with speech, language and communication skills an important indicator of child wellbeing. These skills shape a child's ability to learn, develop friendships and their future life chances. Every child, regardless of circumstance should be able to develop and thrive.




This integrated pathway sets out Sefton's vision to meet the speech, language and communication needs of children in the early years.

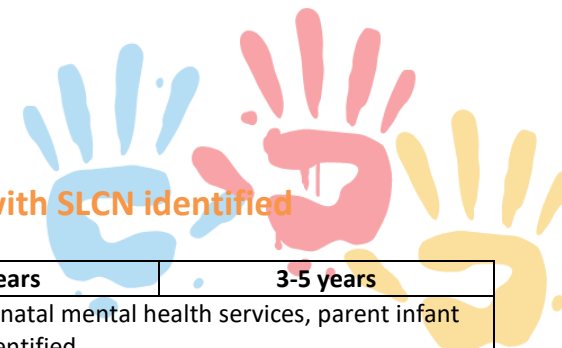
This means we can integrate local services across education, health and social care; and empower parents to improve early language outcomes and child wellbeing.

Sefton aim for all services who have contact with families in the early years to consistently deliver the key messages to support early speech, language and communication, for all early years professionals to have access to training that develops their skills in supporting early speech, language and communication, for all families to have access to information and activities that support the development of their child's early speech, language and communication and where needs are identified for the family and child to be supported in how to access targeted or specialist provision as detailed below.

Universal Services – Available to all families and preschool children



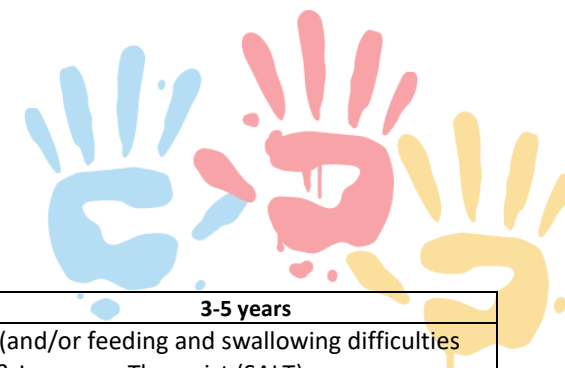
	Pregnancy ↘	0-2 years	2-3 years	3-5 years
 Review points and assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Midwifery contacts as per routine maternity pathway ➤ Health visitor antenatal review from 28 weeks gestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Midwifery contacts as per routine maternity pathway ➤ Health visitor new birth review (10-14 days) ➤ New-born hearing screening ➤ Health visitor 6-8-week review ➤ GP/practice nurse immunisations (as per immunisation schedule/new-born physical examination) ➤ Health visitor 12-month review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health visitor 2-Year Review/Integrated review (using ASQ/ELIM) ➤ Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Education 2-Year Progress Check/Integrated review (using Wellcomm screening) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reception Baseline Assessment ➤ Early Years Foundation Stage Profile at age 5 (Reception) ➤ Transition to school – transfer from health visiting to school nursing; transfer of information from early years setting to school
 Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Signposting to community-based resources (e.g., libraries (Story and Rhyme Time), Family Wellbeing Centres, local voluntary and community sector services, baby clinics etc) ➤ Engaging with families to support the home learning environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All professionals who engage with families with preschool children to share key messages and information related to promoting early language development ➤ Provision of high-quality, language-rich early communication environments, both engaging with parents for home learning environments and practitioners in early years settings. ➤ High quality, language-rich early years curriculum within settings. ➤ Ongoing review of risk factors for SLCN and review of communication milestones/developmental flags carried out by the health visitor and early years practitioner ➤ Promotion of early education for eligible families (e.g., free education and childcare from 9 months) ➤ Early Years practitioners will monitor progress through ongoing observation during curriculum activities under the communication and language area of learning (if child in setting) with access to WellComm screening tool for identified children ➤ All professionals have knowledge of how to support children and families who are bilingual or have English as an Additional Language including promoting use of home language ➤ Signposting to community-based resources (e.g., libraries, Family Wellbeing Centres, local voluntary and community sector services, baby clinics etc.) ➤ Workforce development to enable above including role of Language Champions ➤ All information and resources available via pathway section of website 		
 Key messaging	NSPCC Look Say Sing Play Promoting parent-infant relationship – supporting parents to be aware of the needs of their unborn baby (including ‘read to bump’)	NSPCC Look Say Sing Play	NSPCC Look Say Sing Play Start for Life	Start for Life



Targeted Services: Available to families and children where delay or risk factors for delay with SLCN identified

	Pregnancy	0-2 years	2-3 years	3-5 years
💡 Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Families are signposted and supported to access local services (e.g., perinatal mental health services, parent infant mental health services, drug and alcohol services, local voluntary and community sector services) to meet the needs identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Families are signposted and supported to access local services (e.g., perinatal mental health services, parent infant mental health services, drug and alcohol services) to meet any needs identified ➤ PVI and school settings assess children’s language development using EYFS, 2-year progress checks and WellComm ➤ PVI and School settings access the SALT advice line to discuss children who are at risk of delay, share strategies, monitor progress etc ➤ Settings: Provision of a high-quality, language-rich early communication environment and curriculum in early years settings (if child attending). Workforce development to enable above ➤ Early Help and other partners offer targeted interventions ➤ Early Help and BABS: home learning support offered to targeted families on attachment and early language via Incredible Years, Home Coaching and VIG ➤ Social care and Early Help workers discuss key messages and signpost to activities ➤ Any Early Help or Social Care assessment or plan must consider SLCN ➤ Family Wellbeing Centre Facebook promote SLC activities and tips for parents ➤ Develop communication strategy for social media across all agencies and partners ➤ Education Portal for practitioners dedicated page for SLC 		
💡 Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health Visiting: during pregnancy, home visiting provision (e.g., Enhanced HV Pathway) for targeted families as per criteria for example adolescent parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health Visiting: Families with identified risk factors will be supported according to local health visiting pathway with specific attention given to review of communication milestones e.g., 1-Year Review/2YO Review (ASQ, ELIM) and referral onto SALT if needed ➤ Evidence based intensive home visiting programmes provided for targeted families (i.e., Enhanced 0-19 Pathway) or additional home visiting support from the health visiting service to support parents and the quality of the home learning environment 		
💡 Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Social care and Early Help workers discuss key messages and signpost to activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EY provision: Where children are not meeting key communication milestones further assessment should be made of the risk factors present, developmental “flags for review” and general development e.g., assessment at deeper level using WellComm and referral onto SALT if needed. Referrals to other agencies will be considered as SLCN may be part of a wider need (such as Autism, developmental delay, learning difficulties) ➤ Refer to ‘Plan Do Review’ cycle within Sefton Graduated Approach and formulate a learning and development plan 		
💡 Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Additional evidence-based support/enriched curriculum in EY provision to support progress with SLC e.g., WellComm intervention; ELKLAN; etc 		

Specialist Services: Available to children with identified needs



	Pregnancy	0-2 years	2-3 years	3-5 years
💡 Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Where child needs identified in pregnancy services follow up necessary referrals and provide information and support in the ante-natal period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Access to specialist interventions for children with a range of SLCN (and/or feeding and swallowing difficulties of a physical or structural nature), under the guidance of a Speech & Language Therapist (SALT) ➤ SALT advice line sessions identify children at risk and support referral into SALT Services ➤ Learning and development plan formulated using therapy plan/targets from SALT ➤ NB when referrals are made to SALT targeted input will continue 		
💡 Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support from a SALT for children with identified additional/complex needs and children with long term persistent but specific SLCNs, such as Developmental Language Disorder. <p>Using the Care Aims model SALT share knowledge and demonstrate strategies so that the people closest to the child can make the changes. For children to have good outcomes they need everyone in their immediate environment to be involved.</p>		
💡 Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Specific support and training from specialists to enable early years settings to support children with severe, specific or complex SLCN e.g., Sefton Language workforce development and SALT in partnership ➤ Provision provided at universal and targeted level should continue 		
💡 Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parents should be provided with specific specialist support to facilitate their ability to support their child's communication development 		
💡 Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Joined up, multi-disciplinary support ➤ Early Notification to EY SEND for children under compulsory school age as having or probably having a SEN or disability 		
💡 Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contribution to statutory assessment i.e., EHCP, annual reviews and individual education plans/target setting for children open to SALT service (refer to SALT prior to requesting EHC needs assessment) 		
💡 Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Additional support may be provided by other specialist services e.g., Community Paediatricians, SENIS, Portage Workers etc. 		

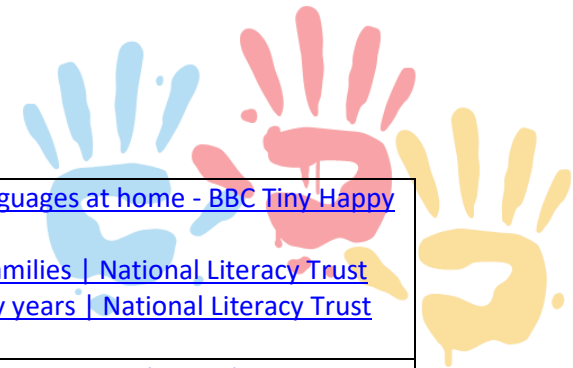


Resources and Key Messages

Area/key message	Link
Look Say Sing Play -	Look, Say, Sing, Play early years resources to use and share with parents NSPCC Learning
Tiny Happy People	Activities for babies, toddlers and children - BBC Tiny Happy People
Start for Life	Start for Life home - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
Sefton Graduated Approach Toolkit	Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team The Sefton Directory
Sefton Early Years Website Facebook	Early Years (sefton.gov.uk) Facebook
Sefton speech and language therapy, Alder Hey	Community Speech and Language Therapy - Sefton - Alder Hey Children's Hospital Trust

Further Resources and Links

Area	Link
Pregnancy	Home - Liverpool Womens NHS Foundation Trust Pregnancy tips and advice - BBC Tiny Happy People
Speech, Language and Communication	Speech and Language UK: Changing young lives
Stammering British Stammering Association Action for stammering Children	www.STAMMA.org www.actionforstammeringchildren.org



Bilingualism/EAL	Bilingual babies and speaking multiple languages at home - BBC Tiny Happy People Time together - support for multilingual families National Literacy Trust Understanding multilingualism in the early years National Literacy Trust
Selective Mutism	Selective Mutism Information & Research Association (SMIRA) SMIRA - Selective Mutism Information and Research Association Facebook
Makaton	Home (makaton.org)
Autism	National Autistic Society (autism.org.uk) Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) – Alder Hey Children's Hospital Trust Early years Ambitious about Autism Early Years Standards Framework Autism Education Trust
Sefton Local Offer	Local Offer - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities The Sefton Directory
Sefton Council speech language and communication resource page, early years	Speech, Language and Communication Sefton Education
Best Start	Best start in speech, language and communication (SLC) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Library Service Webpage Events Page At The Library webpage Bootle, Crosby, Netherton Facebook/Twitter/instagram	www.sefton.gov.uk/libraries https://www.sefton.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/schools-and-learning/libraries/events-and-activities/ https://atthelibrary.co.uk/ Facebook https://twitter.com/SeftonLibraries Sefton Libraries (@seftonlibraries) • Instagram photos and videos