Speech and Language Therapy
SPIN Team

Speech, language and communication

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Why is communication so important?

Communication is one of the most important skills a child needs – it is key to learning, making friends, being independent and having fun. Parents and carers make the biggest difference to children’s speech and language development – you are their very first teacher!

The SPIN Team

Once children begin early years education, we want all children to be part of an Early Years Establishment that encourages language and communication.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran and North Ayrshire Council have created the speech and language therapy **SPIN Team**. The SPIN team works closely with parents, carers and education staff in the early years to make sure that the most important people around children are confident in helping them with listening, understanding, talking and interacting.
Communication Champions

Your nursery has a Communication Champion – a member of staff who links closely with the SPIN team

A Communication Champion:

• Is the person to speak to if you are concerned about your child or are wondering where to look for more information about speech and language development.

• Will have knowledge about stages of speech and language development.

• Will know where to find information about speech and language development.

• Will have lots of advice for supporting speech and language development at home.

• May offer parent workshops in the nursery to pass on information and tips about speech and language development.

• Can discuss when and how to refer to Speech and Language Therapy.
Communication Friendly Environment

We want to support all Early Years Establishments to be ‘Communication Friendly’. This means:

• Keeping you up to date with your child’s progress and talking over any concerns.

• A communication board will be displayed with top tips for speech and language development.

• Early Years Practitioners will lead and plan ‘small group times’ which all children can access, focusing on speech, language and communication building activities.

• Creating quiet areas in nursery or outside with few distractions.

• Helping children to communicate in other ways, such as symbols, signs and pictures.

• Organising staff training from Speech and Language Therapy at least once a year.
Top tips to develop children’s speech and language

• Get your child’s attention first – get down to child’s level before speaking or asking a question.

• Use simple words and repeat them often. You can do this during snack times, bath time or just when you’re playing together.

• Build on what your child says to you. Add one or two words to your child’s sentence. For example, if they say ‘car’ you say ‘it’s daddy car’.

• Give your child time to respond (children need more time than adults to respond).

• Try not to ask too many questions as this can block the flow of natural conversation.

• Remember that the best speech and language development will happen during everyday play and routines with your child – reading together, singing and just playing together.
Useful websites

www.talkingpoint.org.uk
www.ican.org.uk
www.afasic.org.uk
www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk
www.stokespeaksout.org
www.wordsforlife.org.uk

Your Communication Champion is

@weepeoplechat

SPIN North Ayrshire SLT
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