

Where can parents go for help?

***My child is not yet attending a setting or school.
I am concerned about his/her speech and language
development. What can I do?***

If you have concerns about your child's speech, language and communication development and your child is not yet attending a pre-school setting or school, there are a number of things you can do:

- ✓ talk to your Health Visitor
- ✓ contact your local Children's Centre www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childrenscentres
- ✓ drop in to a Talking Walk-In run at your local Children's Centre by the Speech and Language Therapy Service to seek some initial advice www.hacw.nhs.uk/our-services/speech-language-therapy/childrens/referral-and-services/
- ✓ discuss your concerns with your GP
- ✓ contact the Early Help Hub in Worcestershire for advice and support for your family: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/FAMILYINFO
- ✓ refer to Talking Point www.talkingpoint.org.uk for lots of information about speech, language and communication needs and how to support your child

***My child is having difficulties in his/her setting/school.
What can I do?***

If you have concerns about your child's speech, language and communication development and your child is attending a pre-school setting or school, there are a number of things you can do:

- ✓ discuss your concerns with whoever works with your child, e.g. the key person/practitioner in the setting; the child's teacher, form teacher or head of year; the SENCO – a teacher in school who is responsible for coordinating special educational needs support; the Headteacher
- ✓ if your child is under the age of 5, drop in to a Talking Walk-In run at your local Children's Centre by the Speech and Language Therapy Service to seek some initial advice
- ✓ telephone the Speech and Language Therapy Service and ask for some advice

What support and/or local groups are available for parents?

Parent support from Worcestershire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) provide information and support for parents with a focus on children who have been identified as having a Special Educational Need. Parent Partnership Services provide a range of flexible services in order to empower parents to play an active and informed role in their child's education. www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20208/special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_information_advice_and_support_service

Worcestershire Early Help Hub provides advice and information to families with children aged 0 -19 years of age. www.worcestershire.gov.uk/FAMILYINFO

Bromsgrove and Redditch ASD Support group – Meets on 2nd Thursday of the month 8pm-10pm, contact: Charmian McCrossan Charm-bluebell@blueyonder.co.uk

AS Active (for children 8 to 13 years) - aims to provide a network of friends for kids with Asperger syndrome to play and socialise with, and for parents and families to take a moment for themselves, safe in the knowledge that their children are enjoying time with their peers in a caring and safe environment. Play is organised by professional play leaders who are CRB-checked and trained in ASD. Games, arts and crafts are designed to help kids with their social, gross and fine motor skills. AS Active also acts as an informal education centre for parents and families who are new to Asperger syndrome, and from time to time runs short training courses and talks by guest speakers to aid understanding and allow people to seek answers to some of their questions. Contact: ☎ 07976 200 100
Email: info@asactive.org

Hansel & Gretel Support Group Support group run for children and young people with SEN, family members and extended family and friends.

Contact: c/o Blakebrook School, Bewdley Rd, Kidderminster DY11 6RL ☎ 07525 668608

Little Oaks Special Needs Children's Club A club that offers a variety of activities for children with special needs and their siblings; these include craft activities, cookery, plenty of toys, and also a secure outdoor play area. Frequent outings to local parks, farms and activity centres. Saturday mornings 11.00am to 1.00pm in Bromsgrove. Contact Margaret Burton ☎ 01527 877014.

Contact a Family – offer information, advice and support to parents and carers of children with any special need or disability as well as professionals working with families. www.cafamily.org.uk

Where can parents go for further information?

Afasic www.afasic.org.uk Support for parents, children and young people; has a parent forum as well as a wide variety of free, downloadable resources and other publications
National Helpline 08453 555577

Communication Matters <http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk> The national charity for people using and supporting the use of alternative and augmentative forms of communication (AAC), primarily communication aid equipment.

The Communication Trust: <http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/> The Communication Trust focuses on supporting children and young people who struggle to communicate because they have speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)

Talking Point www.talkingpoint.org.uk is the information website hosted by I CAN and has a range of information and resources for parents and professionals.

The British Stammering Association Helpline: www.stammering.org
The association has a number of resources to help the stammering child, including Stammering - A Practical Guide for Teachers and Other Professionals.

The following DVDs and books are from a list available at

<http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk/en/Parent/Directory/DVDs%20and%20Books.aspx>

Baby and Me: A DVD giving simple tips to try when communicating with babies. In Arabic, English and Sylheti, Polish and Portuguese.

To order: www.socialbaby.com/shop/

Baby's here: Handbook with one half for Dads and one half for Mums. Very accessible and down to earth. The Dads' part, in particular, discusses interaction and learning through play.

To order: email: dcsf@prolog.uk.com

Baby Talk: A new childcare programme that aims to improve your child's language development and ability to concentrate and learn, and to enrich imaginative play and maximise potential intelligence

To order: www.amazon.co.uk

Chatter Matters: The DVD contains a fascinating programme offering dozens of brilliant ideas to help you develop your child's speaking and listening skills throughout their preschool years.

To order: www.ican.org.uk

Communication Cookbook: A resource book of activities to support children's language and communication. It contains simple recipes to help parents and teachers to develop these in skills in children aged four to six.

To order: www.ican.org.uk

Everyday Babycare-Learning to talk: A practical, user-friendly guide answering the key questions parents ask about their child's language development

To order: www.amazon.co.uk

The Parent's Voice-Advocating for your Child: This 30 page booklet aims to encourage and empower parents to become involved in influencing and improving services for children and young people.

To order: www.afasic.org.uk

Ready, Steady, Talk! An activity book of great games to help 2 and 3 year olds get ready for pre-school.

To order: www.ican.org.uk

Talk Together: A simple 8 page illustrated booklet which explains the importance of language, the key milestones in a child's speech and language and development, how to support children's language development, and what to do if they think there is a problem

To order: www.ican.org.uk

Top tips for tiny tots: A CD-Rom and web-based resource.

To access: Go to www.tt4tt.co.uk/

Transfer to Secondary School-Moving on Moving up: The aim of this new pack from Afasic England is to help families and schools support pupils with speech, language and communication impairments as they transfer from primary to secondary education.

To order: www.afasic.org.uk

Watch your language: A resource for parents/carers of young people 11+ to share with youth and leisure services.

To order: www.afasic.org.uk

