

Speech Link



What is Speech Link?

Speech Link is an innovative multi-media package that gives teachers and teaching assistants the ability to screen for developmental speech difficulties and implement speech sound programmes. Schools are empowered to manage straightforward speech delays and to prioritise children who need referral for more specialist support.

The package consists of a computer based speech screening assessment, a web site featuring speech sound programmes and discussion group, a training video and printable picture resources.

The Speech Screening Assessment

The computer based speech screen is suitable for children between 4 and 8 years of age and takes around ten minutes to complete.

The screen consists of about 40 engaging easily recognisable pictures. The child names the pictures and the adult enters the responses. At the end of the screen the computer recommends age appropriate speech programmes with a suggested order of work. If the child has a complex difficulty discussion with the speech and language therapy service is recommended.

“It is an exciting,
useful tool... a good
resource for schools...”

*Speech and Language
Therapist*



partnership working



The Web Site

The web site features a full range of speech sound programmes; these include techniques for eliciting each speech sound. The site also features information about the development of speech, ideas to help generalise sounds to everyday speech and resource information with links to suppliers' web sites.

An online password protected discussion group is available, monitored by speech and language therapists, where schools can exchange ideas with each other and seek support and advice from their local speech and language therapy department.

Enhanced Communication

Local speech and language therapy departments have the opportunity to run the discussion forum on the web site for schools in their area. Customisable pages are available for local speech and

language therapy departments to post up any information they consider useful to their client schools e.g. articles about speech and language and information about training offered locally.

Speech Link is not intended as a substitute for existing speech and language therapy services. It is designed to work alongside them to enhance partnership working, offering schools support to deal with more straightforward speech difficulties and helping prioritise children for referral. Teachers and teaching assistants are empowered and supported to carry out basic screening and therapy programs.

Supporting Materials

The Speech Link video shows a number of speech and language therapists modelling therapeutic approaches and activities. Many of the activities described in the speech sound programmes on the web site are demonstrated on the video. Also covered are examples of how to correct children's mistakes and ideas for extending activities to encourage better general use of sounds.

The package includes a set of printable pictures for use with each of the speech sound programmes.



"It is fantastic, we can manage straightforward children ourselves now"

Teaching Assistant