

PINCH OF SALT



A brief update from Children's Speech & Language Therapy Services in Swindon

A FEW REMINDERS!



Referring to the Service: We operate an open referral system which means that we accept referrals from professionals (Health Visitors, GPs, Education staff etc) and also parents. We ask that evidence of a graduated response is provided. Information about making a referral can be found [here](#). We also provide advice and strategies about [what you can do to support the child](#). Referrals for children that there are concerns about at the pre-school stage are important. Don't wait until the child starts school as there is a lot that can be put in place to support then before then.

Waiting during interactions: Gives children extra time to process and respond and encourages them to respond. You are showing them how to have a turn. Look at this information from the Hanen centre : [It's Worth the Wait](#)

Supporting families where English is an additional language: We need to support parents and carers by giving consistent advice:

- It's important that parents use the language they know best and feel most comfortable in. This is how they can help children develop language.
- It's important to keep speaking the mother tongue at home. Children will understand what has been said and continue learning the language this way.
- There is no evidence that bilingualism will make it harder for children with language problems to develop speech and language.
- Share this "[Words for life](#)" information with parents.

STAFFING NEWS

- We are very sad to say goodbye to Penny Windebank who has now left the service to start a new job in a school for children with autism. Penny has worked in the service for 20 years and we will miss her a lot. We wish her all the very best in her new role.
- We also say a temporary farewell to Abi Cotton, who has just started her maternity leave.
- We are currently recruiting with adverts out for a number of posts. so fingers crossed and watch this space!
- We continue to experience significant staffing challenges at this time. Please do be pro-active about contacting us with any queries or to request advice.
- Regular SENCO drop in sessions for pre school, primary and Secondary age children continue. These sessions provide the opportunity for support and advice to be accessed. To raise a query or book a SENCO drop in, please contact: P@swindon.gov.uk



TOP RESOURCE:

Neurodiversity affirming content and resources produced by a Speech and Language Therapist with Autism and ADHD: Insightful and thought provoking:

- [Take a look here](#)
- [Writing Social Stories](#)

IT'S IMPORTANT TO
KNOW A BIT ABOUT AUTISM.



Training - Dates for the Diary (Term 6)

These are all bookable on the hub for education

- [Signalong Foundation Course](#) (2 days): 12.06.24 / 19.06.24 (The Saltway Centre)
- [Supporting Early years communication skills in the early years/ KS1](#): 14.06.24 (The Saltway Centre)
- [Signalong going to school introductory workshop](#): 26.06.24 (The Saltway Centre)

Dates for school SENCO drop in sessions for term 6

Primary drop ins:

- Wednesday June 13th: 14.00 - 16.00
- Wednesday 3rd July: 14.00 - 16.00

Secondary drop ins:

- Tuesday 11th June: 13.00 - 15.45

To book a 30 minute slot, please contact our admin team on P@swindon.gov.uk

DON'T FORGET TO KEEP CHECKING OUR PAGES ON THE [LOCAL OFFER](#) FOR FURTHER INFO AND ADVICE:

