

PINCH OF SALT



A brief update from Children's Speech & Language Therapy Services in Swindon.
Hoping you had a lovely break, from the SALT Team

Conference News... 22nd March 2023

Paediatric Therapy Services hosted a Head Teacher's conference on March 22nd at Steam with a focus on the importance of communication.

Thanks to Stephen Parsons our keynote speaker, who kicked us off with an informative talk on the importance of recognising communication difficulties in children and how this might impact their education.

Alex Ford gave a thought provoking presentation on communication friendly schools and was joined by a very brave young man, Zane who talked about his communication challenges and how he likes to be supported.

In the afternoon, we had seminars on Neurodiversity affirming approaches, EAL and an inspiring talk on Trauma Informed Practice.

Did you know...?

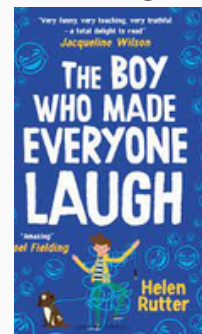
- Approximately 10% of children have long term speech, language and communication needs.
- Oral language skills are the foundation for reading, writing, and learning. Improving a child's spoken language skills will benefit all areas of the curriculum
- A classroom which supports communication will benefit all children and young people.

STAFFING NEWS

We welcome
Lisa Atkinson our
Specialist Community
Health Services Manager

A Massive Thank you:

To Swindon Stories for purchasing books for all Swindon schools. These books will be wonderful additions to school libraries to highlight issues of identity and stammering awareness:



Many schools received these at the conference. If you have not received your free book, please contact us to request this:

Secondary schools - The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh.

Primary Schools - How To Be More Hedgehog.

Traded Services Update

From April 2023, we are able to offer traded services again. We have a number of interventions that we currently offer which will be delivered by our lovely team of support practitioners:

- Talk Boost Key stage 1
- Word Aware vocabulary group
- Language for thinking
- Colourful Semantics,
- Bespoke packages for children

For information about any of these interventions, or to discuss your requirements, please contact: p@swindon.gov.uk, subject header: traded services

Upcoming Training - Dates for your diary:



- Screening and referring to SALT (BRISC), 26th April 23
- Signalong Foundation course, 07 & 14th June 23
- Signalong Going To School Introductory workshop, 12th July 23
- Supporting Early Communication Skills, 21st Sep 23

Please consider booking ahead for September to help support the children transitioning to your setting who have a high level of communication need

Don't forget to visit our pages on the local offer:



15th March was Swallowing Awareness Day:

Dysphagia is the medical term for eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties (EDS)

Children with neurological difference or those born premature are most likely to be at risk, however swallowing difficulties can affect anyone at any stage of life.

Signs associated with dysphagia include:

1. Difficulty developing feeding skills
2. Changes in eating habits
3. Recurrent chest infections

Speech and Language Therapist play an essential role in assessing and making recommendations for managing EDS.

We have developed a **dysphagia screening tool** to help you to decide if a referral to speech and language therapy is appropriate, please contact the department if you would like a copy.

Advice from Speech and Language Therapy Department

We are running **SENCO drop in sessions** for schools next term to gain advice and support:

- April 20th (14:00-16:00)
- April 27th (15:00 - 16:30) **Secondary**
- May 18th (15:00 - 16:30) **Secondary**
- May 24th (14:00 - 16:00)
- June 15th (14:00 - 16:00)
- July 12th (14:00 - 16:00)

To book an appointment time
call: 01793 464246
or email:
p@swindon.gov.uk

Please note, Early years drop in sessions are organised separately and dates are available on the [hub for education](#)