

Dosthill Primary Academy

SEND Newsletter

Issue 5- January 2025



Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to our monthly SEND newsletter.

Happy New Year to anyone I have not had a chance to catch up with.

During this newsletter I have provided information and guidance on speech and language needs. As always, if you have any suggestions on aspects of SEND that you would like me to focus on I am more than happy to consider these.

Please do email me or speak to the office if you would like to arrange to meet or for me to contact you. senco@dosthill.org.

Mrs Katie Smith
SENCO

Speech, Language and Communication

How can I support my child at home?

Speech, language and communication skills are crucial to young children's overall development. Being able to speak clearly and process speech sounds, to understand others, to express ideas and interact with others are fundamental building blocks for a child's development.

By the time children start school, they should be able to understand simple who, what and where questions and talk in sentences so that people can understand them. They should also enjoy playing, listening to stories, joining in with nursery rhymes and having conversations.



How can parents support speech and language at home:

Here are some ideas shared by the Speech and Language Service to help support your child's language development. Some of these ideas are useful whatever the age of your child - others are particularly useful for younger children.

- Spend time together talking - turn off TVs, phones and try and remove distractions.
- Make time to sit down with your child to talk about their day, what they have enjoyed.
- Playing games/board games with a focus on turn taking, following rules, and discussing feelings about winning and losing.
- Spend time reading - bedtime stories - talking about the pictures, thoughts, and feelings about the characters, encouraging predictions.
- Talking about different environments - what can you see around you; making links - e.g. conkers from trees in autumn; autumn leaves - colour changing, play eye spy when you are out.
- Enjoy rhymes, songs together.

[Help for families - Speech and Language UK: Changing young lives](#)



www.speechandlanguage.org.uk

Speech and Language UK is charity which provides information and support to families and professionals related to supporting children with speech, language and communication difficulties.

The website has a wealth of information and advice for parents including a progress checker. This tool can be completed by parents to help identify children are developing at age related expectations or further support is needed.

Speech & Language Therapy Services (Children): Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

The Children's Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service is the NHS provider in Staffordshire to support children who need additional support related to speech and language.

Speech and language therapists work with babies, children and young people who have speech, language, communication and/or eating and drinking needs. Teams include Speech and Language Therapists, SLT Assistants and support staff.

How to refer to Speech and Language Therapy

A referral can be made by a Health Visitor, teacher, SENDCO, G.P., other professional, parent or those with parental responsibility. You can speak to your class teacher, SENDCO, GP or contact your local SLT team for referral advice.



[Speech and Language Therapy | Stoke Speaks Out | United Kingdom](#)

Is another website which has support and advice for parents including a range of videos providing useful information.

Many young children can struggle with the pronunciation of certain sounds. The following chart provides a guide to typical development.

Age	Your child will probably use these	Your child may NOT use these sounds
18 months - 3 years	m, n p, b, t, d w, h 	• Your child may not use sounds at the end of words
3 years - 4 years	m, n p, b, t, d, k, g w, h, y f, s	• Some long sounds like 's, f, v, sh, ch' may not have developed so he may say 'bideo' for video, 'bish' or 'bid' for fish or 'dun' for sun. • He may not use 'k' and 'g' sounds but use a 't' or 'd' instead so he may say 'dar' for car and 'det' for get.
4 years - 5 years	m, n p, b, t, d, k, g w, h, y, l f, v, s, perhaps sh 	• Blend sounds like 'sp', 'st', 'bl', 'cr' may not have developed so he may say 'poon' for spoon, 'bue' for blue and 'cisp's' for crisps.
5+ years	m, n p, b, t, d f, v, s, z, sh, ch, j w, h, y, l, r, th Blends may start to develop eg 'sp', 'st', 'bl' 'cr'	• Children often don't learn to use 'th' and 'r' sounds until they are at least 6 years old. Many adults don't use the 'th' sound and it is unlikely that a speech and language therapist would work on it.

Dates for your diaries

W/C 3.2.24- Parent's Evening.

W/C 10.3.24- ILP Reviews.

Parent/Carer Cause for Concern

Please email to senco@dosthill.org to return to Mrs Smith, SENCO.

This is the link to an MS Forms version: <https://forms.office.com/e/F4SnWgsGxC?origin=lprLink>

Child's Name: **D.O.B:** **Class:**
.....

Child's strengths and achievements:

Concerns at home:

Concerns at school:

Parent/Carer information:

A description of all available information about your child.

Areas of concern:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Auditory | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication/Speech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional | <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviour | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical | <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please state): |

Signed: **Date:**
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