



Communication Corner

Summer Term 2026

Welcome to Communication Corner!

Welcome to the first edition of Provide Speech and Language's new termly newsletter, Communication Corner. In these newsletters, we will be sharing news and achievements across our team and the Mid Essex schools which we support, as well as top tips, useful information, resources and upcoming events. Please share this newsletter with parents or display it in your school!

School Spotlight

Bishops Primary School not only have a brilliant speech and language room in their school, but they also now have speech and language chickens! We love the use of symbols and opportunities for Makaton modelling. The Speech and Language Therapy LSA at Lyon's Hall Primary has recently published a book on supporting children with processing and communication difficulties. We cannot wait to read it!



Summer Holiday Tips and Tricks

With the summer holidays fast approaching, here are some ideas of activities you can try at home to continue to support children's speech and language over the break:

Category walk – Whilst out and about, see how many things you and your child can name in a variety of different categories (e.g. things which are green, things that can fly etc)

Sound Bags – Go around the house and find things which all start with a certain sound. This will give the child lots of opportunities to practice speech sounds which they may find tricky.

Action words charades – Take turns acting out an action word (e.g. running, climbing, eating etc) and see if the other person can guess. For an added challenge, try and use the word in a sentence once it's been guessed!

Visual Timetable – To help your child understand the change in routine over the holidays, use a visual timetable that uses pictures of all the things which you will be doing that day. Remember that using photographs of actual places, objects and activities will be easier for your child to understand compared to cartoon pictures and symbols.

Our Schools Offer

In September, we introduced the Balance System ® model in schools. This model breaks down support into three different levels, each one determining who are the main people who will be providing support for the child. Here is a summary of each level:

Universal – The main agents for change are parents/educational staff and no referral to Speech and Language is needed. At this level, the link therapist will be able to provide general advice and support the implementation of ordinarily available strategies within the classroom.

Targeted – The main agents for change are parents/educational staff under guidance from the link therapist who will be able to assess, review and update targets, provide resources and model intervention to school staff.

Specialist – Main agent for change is SALT who will provide specific interventions for the child. Children who are specialist include children with speech delays/disorders, AAC users and children with DLD.

Sign of the Term



For hot food
make sign
from mouth

hot (feeling hot)

Hopefully the hot weather stays and we will be using this sign a lot! Remember to always use the spoken word alongside modelling a Makaton sign.

Useful Links

<https://providechildrenandfamilyservices.co.uk/services/childrens-speech-language-therapy/>
<https://www.autism.org.uk/>
<https://stamma.org/>
<https://www.icancharity.org.uk/>
<https://www.selectivemutism.org.uk/>