



How to use the Parent Portal: A Guide for Schools

Welcome to Speech and Language Link's Parent Portal! This site has been specifically designed to help parents who are supporting their children's speech and language development at home. The Parent Portal is packed with information and resources to help parents/carers understand their child's speech and language difficulties as well as fun activities for families to improve key speech and language skills at home. We have created this guide to help schools make the most of our Parent Portal. Read on to find out how you can use the information and resources to engage with parents and work together more effectively to help children reach their potential.

Getting Started

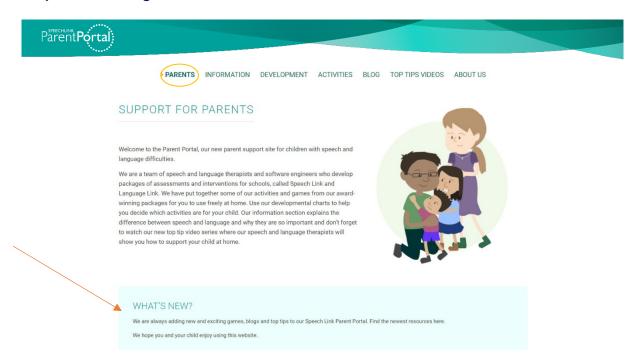
This guide will walk you through the information and resources which can be found on the website. We've made all of this available for schools to share with parents and carers for free. You can share the website with parents to explore for themselves, but this guide will share our advice on how to maximise parent engagement using the Parent Portal.

Find us here: https://speechandlanguage.info/parents





Step 1: Home Page

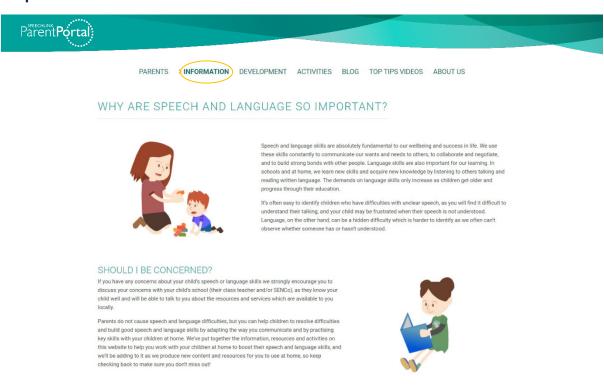


Start here when you first land on the website to check out 'What's New?'. This will be regularly updated with any new content that has been added to the site so you don't miss anything. Coming soon: we are excited to be producing two new video series! Look out for 'Can I have your attention?' (a video series of listening lessons for families to watch at home), 'Survival guides' (advice for tackling common problems when working on speech and language), and new activities!





Step 2: Information



Parents can learn more about why speech and language skills are important and why they can impact on a child's learning in the Information tab. This is a good place for parents to start, especially if they have concerns about their child's development or progress with their speech and language.

We have broken down different areas of speech and language skills into plain English - without the jargon - to help teachers and families communicate about a child's needs more clearly. Here is where you can find specific advice about how to unpick children's speech and language needs and what parents can do next if they are concerned.



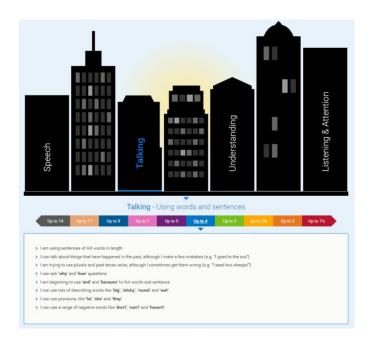




Step 3: Development



We have put together lots of information about what parents can expect from their child's development at different ages. This can sometimes be overwhelming, so to make this information accessible, we've broken it down according to different communication skills: Listening and Attention, Understanding, Talking, and Speech. Clear statements and examples will help parents to recognise what level their child is currently working at. It's useful for staff at school too! This is a really important step for determining what types of activities are appropriate for the child to be working on home.



Step 4: Activities



This is where you will find our treasure trove of speech and language resources which you can share with parents. There's lots to find here, so it can be a good idea to highlight key activities which are relevant for a child to their parents – this extra step will help parents know that they're on the right track with their interventions at home. You will find a selection of speech activities, online interactive listening games, and language activities which are appropriate for children from EYFS up to KS3. To help you direct parents to the right activities for their child, we've colour-coded our language activities to match the ages and stages in our developmental tables.









Because it can be more difficult to engage children when they are at home, we've also got some suggestions for how to adapt everyday activities so that working on speech and language can be slotted in throughout the day.







Step 5: Blog



Our speech and language therapists share ideas for activities and advice on our blog to help to motivate and inspire families who are affected by SLCN. These quick reads can come in handy for school staff too!



Step 6: Top Tips Videos



Our speech and language therapists star in a series of short videos which explain our top tips – simple strategies which support children's understanding and help them to develop good communication skills in every interaction. It's good to talk, and we want to help get families talking.















Share these with parents to build their skills and confidence for supporting their child's communication every day.

Finally: About Us



Here's where you can find out more about our team of speech and language therapists who are there to help schools support children at home. There's plenty more that our company can offer, so why not visit www.speechandlanguage.info to learn more about us.

Any questions? We're happy to help. You can contact our Help Desk 8.30-5pm, Monday to Friday.

Telephone: 0333 577 0784 Email: office2@speechlink.co.uk





Our tips for success with supporting parents:

- Use the development tables to help parents understand more about their child's skills and reasonable
 expectations. You can use your knowledge of the child and their parents' feedback to locate the level
 that the child is currently working at on the development tables. Then, direct parents towards the
 appropriate colour band for the child's language level.
- Lots of parents can feel that they do not have the knowledge and skills to work on production of speech sounds at home. The guidance for parents in our 'Information' tab will help parents to feel more confident in this area. Our structured speech activities and online, interactive games focus on listening to speech sounds, which is a fundamental skill for speech development and an easy way for parents to support speech development at home with little experience.
- Because our speech activities focus on listening, these activities will also be useful for children who are learning to read and write. Developing a child's listening and sound processing (also called phonological awareness) skills provides a crucial foundation for developing their literacy skills.
- Many parents will find it difficult to allocate time for dedicated speech and language activities or may have difficulty finding and/or printing the resources they need. We have created advice sheets and videos to support parents with developing speech and language skills through everyday activities at home without the need for anything extra.
- Our blog has lots of quick-read articles which can build parents' confidence and offer inspiration for things to do with their children at home.
- More coming soon! We're working on lots of new content for to support families at home and we will be adding these to the website in the coming weeks.





Which Parent Portal resources are appropriate for our Language Link groups?

We know that many children will not be attending their usual Infant Language Link and Junior Language Link interventions at this time. The Parent Portal resources, designed specifically with parents in mind, are perfect for continuing with your speech and language interventions at home. Here's how our Parent Portal resources can be used to support remote delivery of the Language Link packages:

Infant Language Link group	Parent Portal resources
Listening Groups	Hands and Feet
	Rhyme Detectives
	Farmyard Sounds
	Syllable Steps
	Socks Box
	Bin it!
	Grand National
Year R General Language Groups:	Who is the thief?
Playground	Shoes and Socks
Classroom	Shopping List
Beach	Gymnastics
	Beach Bingo
Concepts and Instructions	Traffic jam
	Autumn Treasure Hunt
	Big Ted Little Ted
	Draw it
	Mini Olympics
Language Structure	Hide and Seek
	Like, don't like
	Ready, steady, go
	Who wants what?
	Bounce the ball
Questioning and Reasoning	Why because
	What's in the bag?
	What's the time Mr Wolf?
Vocabulary Skills	Dice
	Odd one out
	Yes/No game

Junior Language Link group	Parent Portal resources
Listening Groups	Rhyme Detectives
	Syllable Steps
	Socks Box
	Bin it!
	Grand National
	Classroom Chaos





Year 3 General Language Groups: Swimming Pool Shopping Centre Park	Like, don't like What's in the bag? Mini Olympics On Holiday When I grow up
Concepts and Instructions	Strictly Robots Before and after Position the parents The case of the missing tablet
Language Structure	Colour Me Conditional Cubes Sports bag
Questioning and Reasoning	Donkey What will happen next? Detectives What's in the box?
Vocabulary Skills	Yes/No Game
Language for Assessment	For pupils who have been recommended a Language for Assessment group, we recommend that it will be most beneficial to consolidate their learning with all of the resources appropriate to the Junior Language Link programme. Our subscribers can contact our help desk for advice if you need help selecting appropriate resources for any pupil.

Remember: subscribers can find lots more advice sheets and homework resources for parents in the 'Involve Parents' tab of each of our main packages. Go to your school's login to discover more!