



Speech &  
Communication:  
Supporting Our  
Children Together



# Peer Support Group Virtual Meeting

✨ Understanding,  
Supporting, and  
Empowering  
Parents ✨



# Welcome & Purpose



Welcome and introduction to today's session



Sharing experiences and building confidence



Learning about early communication development



Understanding speech and language challenges and support pathways



## Why Speech & Communication Matter



Foundation for learning, friendships, and emotional wellbeing

Impacts behaviour, literacy, and confidence

Every child develops at their own pace — but early support makes a difference



# Speech and Language Development in the Early Years



Birth to 6 months: Reacts to sounds, coos, smiles at familiar voices



6 to 12 months: Babbles, recognizes their name, simple gestures



1 to 2 years: First words, starts combining words



2 to 3 years: Short sentences, follows simple instructions



3 to 4 years: Speaks in full sentences, asks lots of questions



4 to 5 years: Clearer speech, uses complex sentences, enjoys storytelling



# Common Speech & Language Disorders



Speech delay – Talking later than peers



Articulation disorder – Difficulty forming certain sounds



Language delay/disorder –  
Understanding or using words and  
sentences



Stammering – Repetition or interruption  
in flow of speech



Voice disorders – Problems with pitch,  
volume, or quality

# The Speech Process



1. Hearing and listening – The foundation of understanding speech



2. Understanding language – Making sense of words and sentences



3. Thinking and organising ideas – Knowing what to say



4. Speaking and articulation – Producing sounds and words clearly



5. Using communication socially – Taking turns, making eye contact, sharing thoughts



# Supporting Speech at Home



Talk, listen, and play every day



Respond positively to all communication attempts



Read together — books build vocabulary and imagination



Model correct speech gently (not by correcting, but by repeating clearly)



Use songs, rhymes, and storytelling



Limit screen time and encourage real conversations



# Seeking Support



---

Discuss concerns with your child's early years setting or school

---

Request a Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) referral

---

Work in partnership with professionals — share what works at home

---

Explore community resources and local SENDIASS support

---

Remember: early help leads to better long-term outcomes



# Key Resources



Speech and Language UK –  
[www.speechandlanguage.org.uk](http://www.speechandlanguage.org.uk)

I CAN – Free resources and advice for  
parents

NHS Speech and Language Therapy  
Services

Afasic – Support for children with speech,  
language & communication needs

The Speech Circle Podcast – Real stories  
and strategies for parents



# Group Discussion



What challenges do you face supporting your child's communication?

What strategies have worked for you?

How can we use our peer group to share advice and encouragement?



# Thank You



Thank you for  
joining!



🌟 Every word  
counts. Every voice  
matters. 🌟



Together, we can  
build confidence —  
one conversation at  
a time. 💬