

The **Communication Disorder Team** consists of trained teachers and support workers who have additional training in the education of children with an autistic spectrum condition and/or speech, language and communication needs.

The team is experienced in supporting children from pre-school age to post-16. As soon as the team becomes aware of a child who has been diagnosed with an autistic spectrum condition, they will contact the family (for pre-school children) and the child's school (for school age children) to discuss the support that may be available from the service.

What help can the team provide?

For **pre-school children** we offer regular visits to the home and/or pre-school. Support provided may include:

- working with families to develop the child's potential
- answering questions
- suggesting ways to help the child develop communication and social interaction skills
- helping families to plan a programme of activities for the child and suggesting toys, games and books to help with this
- working with families to help them record the development of the child's skills and planning next steps
- keeping families up to date on local and national developments in the education of children with autistic spectrum disorder
- providing information about parent support groups and other services that may be able to help the child, for example doctors, speech and language therapists, health visitors, social workers and voluntary agencies
- offering training and support to staff.

For **school age children** we work with schools to support children with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum condition, including autism, high functioning autism and Asperger Syndrome. This may include:

Assessing the child:

- talking to the child and observing them in the classroom to identify any difficulties they may have
- assessing the child's special needs within the school context
- interpreting special assessment results and identifying educational implication.

Supporting staff and parents to meet the needs of individual children:

- discussing the child's assessment results and addressing any concerns about the child's special need.

- working with staff to identify and set targets in the child's individual education plan
- working with staff to plan, deliver and monitor specialist programmes and suggest resources to support these
- supporting staff to record the child's skills development and plan next steps.

Providing training and advice to staff

- classroom strategies to support the child's inclusion in all areas of the curriculum
- delivering whole school or targeted INSET training.

Contact us

If you would like to speak to someone in our team please call: **01707 320697**
or email CommunicationDisordersTeamSL@hertfordshire.gov.uk