

# Speech and Language Therapy Mainstream Schools Team

## COMMUNICATION KEYS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Speech and Language Therapist



# Outline of Session

- Introduction
- What is Communication?
- Language Pyramid
- Communication Keys
- Communication Friendly School
- Questions





# Communication

- In Primary schools Speech, Language and Communication Needs represents 26% of children with Special Educational Needs
- Approx 7% of 5 year olds entering school have significant difficulties with speech and/or language – these children are likely to need specialist or targeted interventions at key points in their development.

*(Hello Campaign, 2011)*

# What skills are required for good communication?



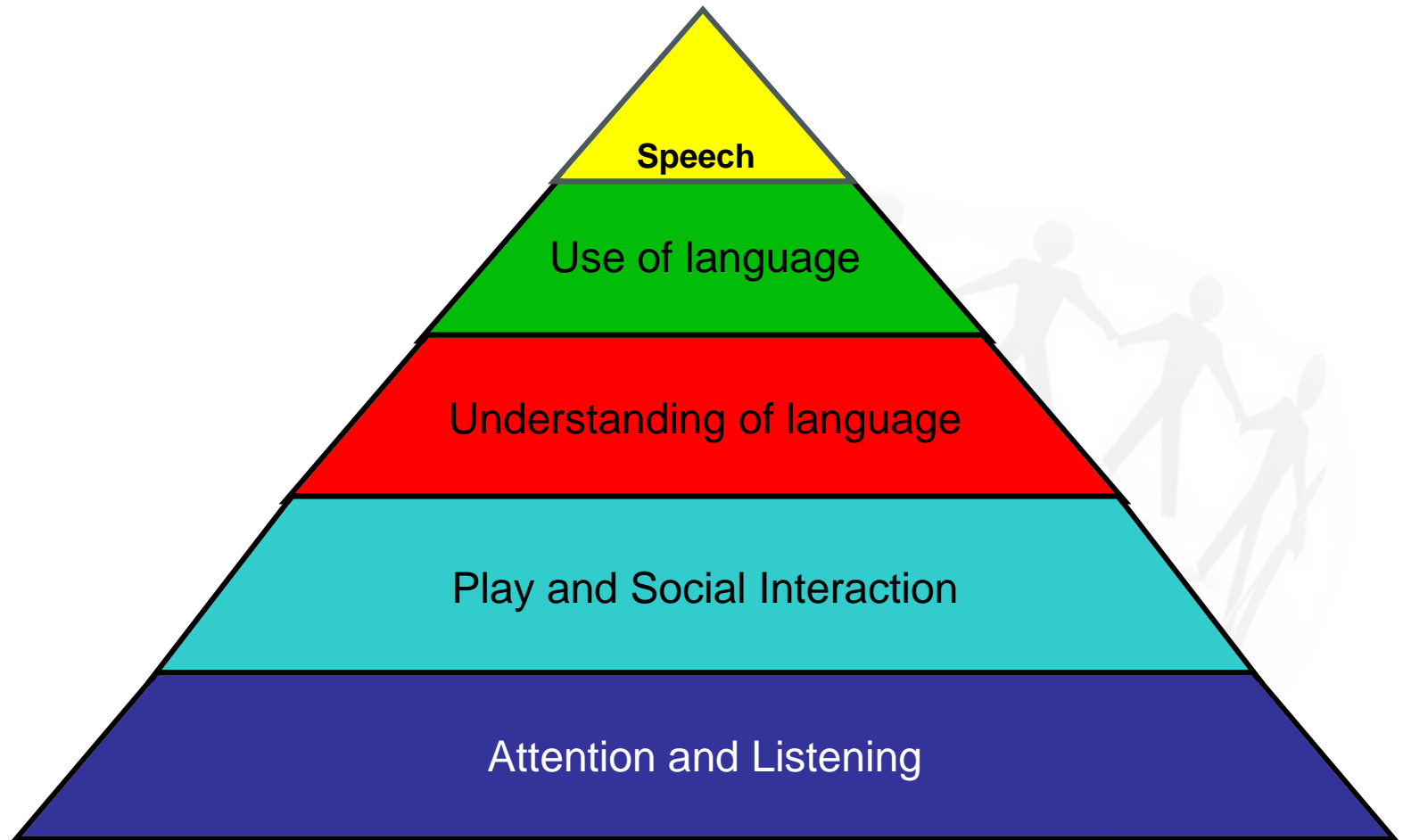
# Language Pyramid

## Activity 1

- There are five parts to the development of language.
- Put the five parts in correct order.
- From bottom to top e.g. what develops first goes at the bottom.



# Language Pyramid



# Speech and Language Difficulties

The term speech and language difficulty refers to children who have difficulties in communicating.

Their speech and language development is different from what you would expect for children of the same chronological age.



# Causes of Speech & Language Difficulties

It is very difficult to tell what causes speech and language difficulties.

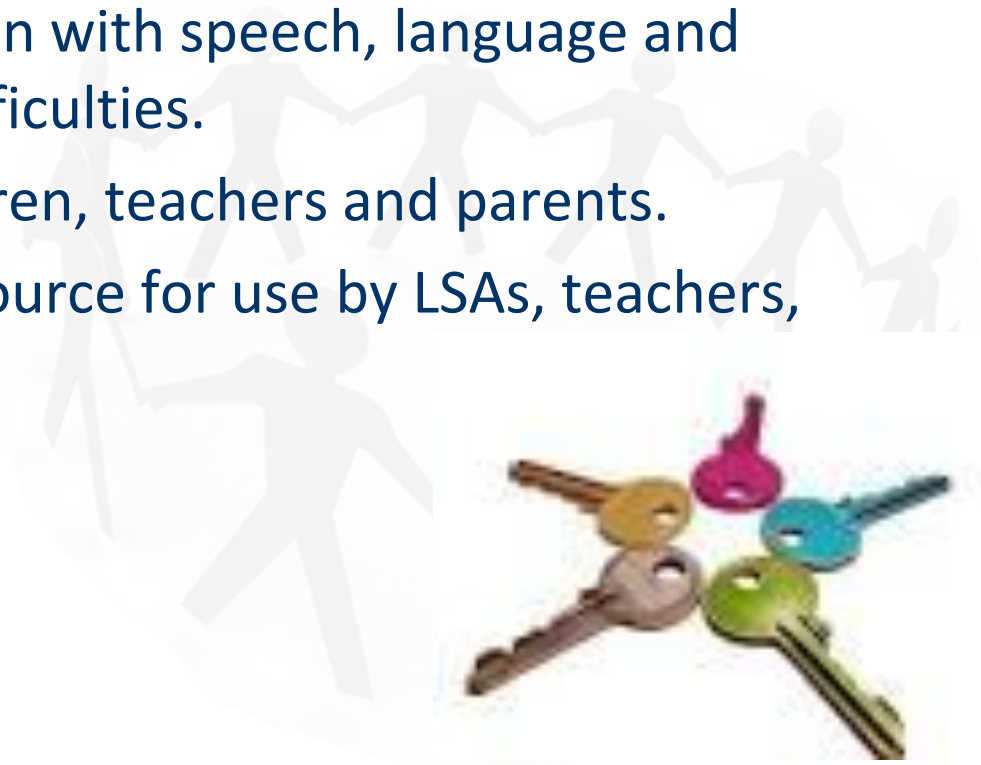
- Environmental factors
  - Poverty, lack of opportunities, poor language models
- Medical issues
  - Learning difficulties, autism, physical disabilities
- Underlying genetic syndromes
  - Down's Syndrome, Prader-Willi Syndrome





# What is Communication Keys?

- A resource with practical ideas and activities to support primary age children with speech, language and communication difficulties.
- Strategies for children, teachers and parents.
- A reproducible resource for use by LSAs, teachers, parents and SLTs.



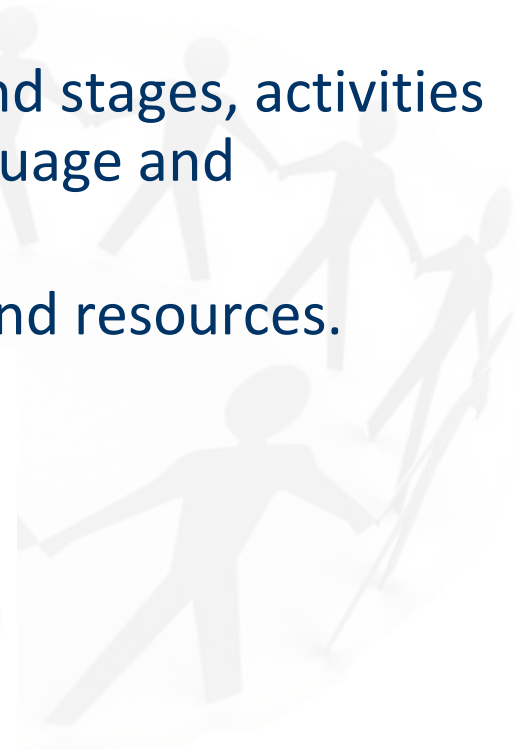
# Why have we produced Communication Keys?



- Communication is fundamental for learning and social development.
- School staff have contact with the children every day and are key in helping develop these skills.
- To empower schools to take a lead role in supporting children with speech, language and communication difficulties.
- SLTs have a specialist role.

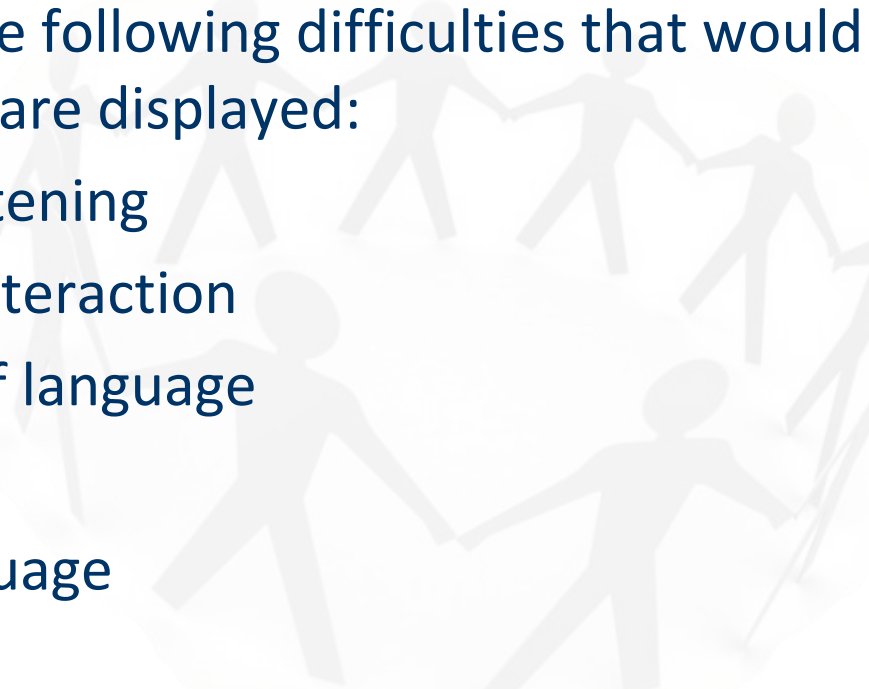
# What is in Communication Keys?

- Screening Assessment – to be carried out by teachers or an adult that knows the child well.
- Different sections containing ages and stages, activities and strategies to target speech, language and communication difficulties.
- An Appendix of useful information and resources.



# Using Communication Keys

## Activity 2

- In groups discuss the following difficulties that would occur and how they are displayed:
    - Attention and listening
    - Play and Social interaction
    - Understanding of language
    - Use of language
    - Higher level language
    - Speech
- 

# Communication Friendly School

## Activity 3

- What are you already doing?
- What's working?
- What is not working and why?
- Think about 2 targets for your classroom ( using communication keys)
- Think about 2 targets for the whole school

# Case Studies

## Activity 4

- Activity - Divide into small groups. Read the scenario on the paper given to you.
- Questions
  - What strategies could you use to support this child?
  - What are the other issues to consider?
- Use Communication Keys for more information and ideas
- Feedback to the whole group

# Activity – Foundation / Key Stage 1

- Ali (6 years)

Ali's attention is mostly single channelled. He is able to follow short simple instructions and will sometimes play with other children. He uses mainly uses 2-3 word phrases.

- Darren (4 years)

Darren is able to attend to the whole of the carpet time. He enjoys listening to stories and is able to follow long instructions. However he is reluctant to answer questions in class. He consistently produces the sounds 'k' as 't' and 'g' as 'd'.

# Activity – Foundation / Key Stage 1

- Zena (5 years)

Zena is able to focus on an activity and listen to instructions at the same time. She has recently started to play cooperatively with her peers. She uses 3-4 word sentences, will listen to short stories but is not yet able to understand longer stories.



# Activity – Key Stage 2

- Thanushan (8 years)

He can attend to group activities but requires support to take turns in a conversation with his friends. He can recall some details about what he did in the holidays. He is able to join 8 words together to form a sentence.

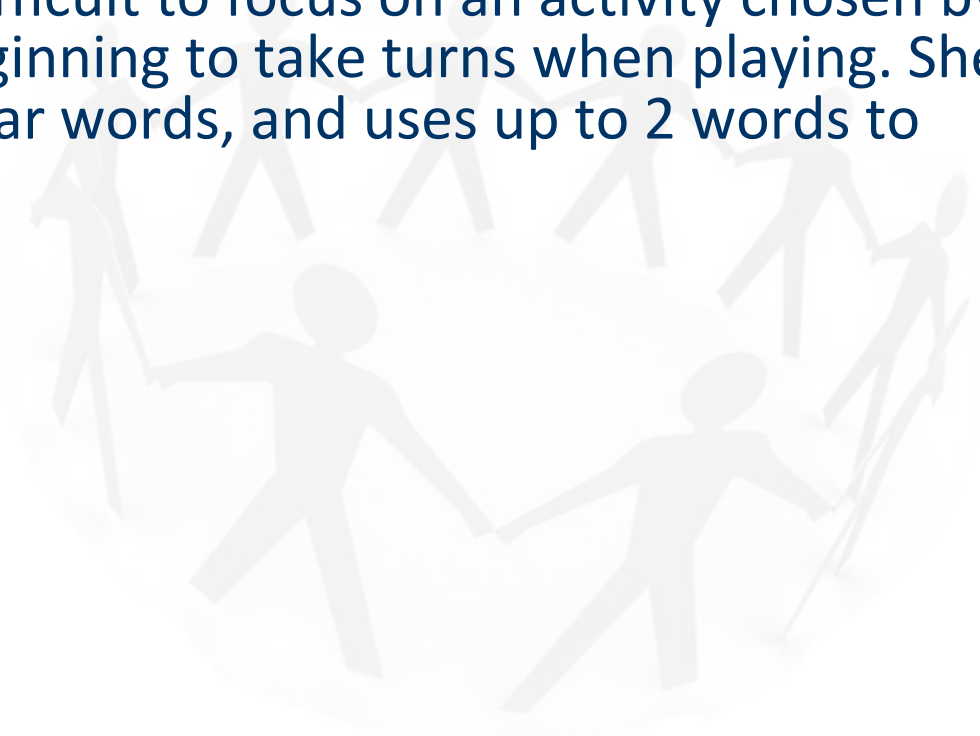
- Joseph (10 years)

He uses long and complex sentences. He is beginning to understand that some words have multiple meanings. He has difficulty understanding less literal language, such as idioms.

# Activity – Key Stage 2

- Methura (9 years)

Methura finds it difficult to focus on an activity chosen by an adult. She is beginning to take turns when playing. She understands familiar words, and uses up to 2 words to make requests.



# The Role of the SLT and Teacher

SLT	Teacher
Education & health priorities – Promoting access for those with <b>specific communication needs</b> .	Education priorities – Equal rights for <b>all children</b> .
View to develop child’s <b>communication strengths</b> .	View to develop child’s <b>learning</b> .
Work in <b>developmental</b> levels, e.g. child of 6yrs working at a language age of 3.	Work in <b>chronological</b> age groups, e.g. by class, school year.
Focus on communication <b>no involvement</b> with reading, writing or spelling.	Encompass <b>general learning</b> needs to include the curriculum, e.g. literacy and numeracy.

# What should I do?

- If you are concerned about a child's speech, language or communication skills, please don't hesitate to seek advice.
- Use Communication Keys – screening assessment and resources.
- Speak to your school SENCo about your concerns and they will advise on whether to refer.
- **Early** identification and referral is important.
- **You** all play a valuable role in ensuring each child can achieve their best.

# Questions

For more information contact your local  
Speech & Language Therapy Service:



## North Brent Schools

Wembley Centre for Health & Care

**020 8795 6198**

## South Brent Schools

Willesden Centre for Health & Care

**020 8438 7275**

**Thank you!**