

Attention Hedgewood

An attention and listening programme developed by Gina Davies (Consultant SLT) devised in four stages to develop children's ability to attend within a group situation. 'Bucket time' sessions are used throughout the school, twice a week, and presented by all staff. Sessions are appropriate to the children's stage of attention development and activities are linked to the curriculum.

Visual Jigs and Social Stories

Visual jigs break down a multi-step task into smaller visual components. Social stories are written to enable individuals with Autism to understand and adapt their behaviours in difficult social situations and are written in a specific format. Both are used as necessary by teachers and SLTs.

Shape Coding

A visual system with set shapes and colours to code parts of speech and sentence structures. This approach is used in a range of situations e.g. telling weekend news, answering questions and commenting.

PECS

A specific technique of learning to physically exchange a symbol to communicate (developed by Bondy & Frost 1985)

Contact Us

The Speech and Language Therapy Team are always happy for you to contact them:

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Speech and Language Therapy



At Hedgewood School



Our Service

The Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service at Hedgewood School is provided by Symbol UK. We endeavour to maximize each child's individual communication potential as identified on their individual Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP).

Children seen by the service are likely to have needs relating to:

- Language development affecting understanding and/or expression
- Speech production
- Social and communication skills
- Augmentative and assistive communication (AAC) e.g. signing, symbols and communication aids
- Eating, drinking and swallowing

The philosophy of the Hedgewood SLT service is to work in collaboration with parents, teachers and other colleagues e.g. Occupational Therapists, as part of a multi-disciplinary team, in order to develop communication targets which will allow each individual child to have maximum levels of access to the curriculum.

Input is delivered in a variety of ways, including:

- Assessment and review
- Specific target setting
- Advice and recommendation
- Class-based intervention and support
- Blocks of individual and group therapy
- Provision of reports for annual reviews
- Home-school liaison as needed and on request
- Support, information and training for school staff and parents on a range of topics, as requested



Approaches used at Hedgewood School

Hedgewood School is a Total Communication environment. The aim of this is to ensure that all pupils with communication needs have a consistent and coherent approach to meeting their needs across the school. Below are some examples of how communication is supported throughout the school.

Symbols

Pictorial representations of a spoken or written word. Hedgewood School has its own symbol set made up of colour and black and white symbols which are used throughout the school.

Visual Timetables

Pictorial/photographic/symbolic representation of the order of the school day. Each class has a large timetable running from left to right or top to bottom. Some pupils will require individual timetables or schedules referring to daily events or activity sequences.

Communication Books

A book of symbols that the child can access by pointing or otherwise indicating a choice other than exchanging the symbol.

Electronic Communication Aids

Any device where a button, switch or touch screen is used to select a symbol which activates a voice that speaks a word or phrase. At Hedgewood we have access to Quick Talker grids, iPads, 'Big Mack' switches and talking photo albums all of which can be loaned for use in the classroom.

Signalong

A system of manual signing used alongside speech. It is also a specific communication method for pupils with speech difficulties. Signalong is used to aid comprehension in the classroom and is differentiated according to the ability and needs of the pupils.

Talking Mats

A method of AAC using sets of symbols designed to help people with communication difficulties to think about issues discussed with them and express their opinions about these issues.

Eating and Drinking Passport

Pupils with specific Eating and Drinking concerns will be assessed by a Dysphagia SLT Specialist and recommended guidelines will be provided.