

Halton Newsletter



FamilyHub Online Services



New app for families in Halton

Halton Family Hubs have recently launched a new app for parents in Halton. The app provides 24/7 access to Family Hub services, along with videos, guides and expert advice on all things family.

Please click on [this link](#) or scan the QR code to download, register and use this excellent tool.



Once you've registered...
If you click [here](#) you'll be able to access the Speech Language and Communication pages, which Communicate SLT have been involved in collating information, links and resources for.

We know that you, as parents are often the best people to help your child learn. Afterall, you know your child well and want to give them the best start in life. The more you know, the more you can help.

Here are some key topics covered on the app:

- [Talking to your bump](#)
- [Talking with your child](#)
- [What to expect and when](#)
- [Helping your child with talking and understanding words](#)
- [Find local support](#)



Family Hub and Early Years Setting Support Project

Two members of the Communicate SLT team, Adele Banton (Early Years Teacher) and Lucy Flannagan (Speech and Language Therapy Assistant) are supporting parents and Early Years settings in Halton to further enhance the support that they provide for children's speech, language, and communication development.

You may meet these team members at events in the Family Hubs such as the Terrific Twos and Play All Day sessions. For more information about Family Hubs groups, please click [here](#).



Speech and Language Therapy services in Halton - an update



Communicate SLT continue to work with commissioners to understand Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service needs within Halton. That work has identified that there is currently a higher level of need than was commissioned. Due to this, we are sorry that the community are still experiencing delays receiving support. Please be assured, we understand how important it is that you receive this support, and we are working diligently to accommodate all of the children and young people in Halton, as quickly as possible. We truly appreciate your ongoing understanding and patience.

Commissioners are taking the following steps to address the high demand for our services:

- Halton Borough Council would like us to share that they have funded an additional five SLT providers to support children and young people with EHCP's, who they have identified have a primary need of speech and language. Parents and schools may be contacted directly by the following SLT providers: Talking Toolbox; Lifelong Language; CommuniKATE Ltd; Pinch of SALT; SpeechWise Ltd; to arrange assessments. If you have any questions relating to this, please speak to your child's education setting.

To support you in the meantime, you may find our recently updated [website](#) useful. [Here](#) you will find links to resources for parents, carers and families, as well as information about:

- [Assessments](#)
- [Therapy and Interventions](#)
- [Reviews](#)

There is also specific information for those:

- [On the Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\) Pathway](#)
- [Applying for an Education, Health Care \(EHC\) Plan](#)

We are continuing to update the content on our website, to allow parents to easily find the information they need.

If you still have a question or query, please get in touch and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Our team...

Our dedicated team in Halton include Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs), Speech and Language Therapy Assistants (SLTAs), and Business Support professionals.

SLTs undertake formal assessments of children's speech, language and communication skills, write reports and make diagnostic decisions. They also oversee care plan creation, interventions and the work of SLTAs.

SLTAs are trained and supervised by SLTs. They may support screening, deliver interventions themselves and/or coach parents and members of the workforce to use strategies and therapy activities for the child.

Speech and Language Therapists



Rhian



Chenade



Claire



Helen



Katie



Lauren



Orla



Sara



Steph

Speech and Language Therapy Assistants



Aimee



Amy



Ashleigh



Jo



Lucy



Lyndsey



Sarah



Rachael



Feedback from the community in Halton

We'd like to celebrate some of the positive feedback we've received from young people, parents and the children's workforce in Halton.

Hearing the impact of our work is really important, so please continue to share your experience with us.



"The team visit approach is really useful for both the base and specific children"

Teacher

"It has been great... to see that there is significant change in ***'s presentation – i.e.. engagement with conversations, ... [confidence]... and showing his emotions freely. ... He said the work he's been doing [with SLT] has been very helpful... and it's boosted his confidence too. Thank you"

Youth Justice Support Worker on behalf of a young person

"The Audit visits have enabled us to reflect and enhance areas in the setting. [As a result we are using] more... visuals consistently, [and] improving interactions in some areas of the setting."

Early Years Practitioner

"The sessions are invaluable in helping [my child] and helping us as well. He is now talking more and using comparisons even when not doing the work."

Parent

"The training *** delivered was really good. We've been using the strategies she suggested... It's been really reassuring to know that we're on the right track."

Teacher

"The ASD reports you write are very thorough and the EHCP reports are like nothing I have seen before - very useful and thorough. I have told the parents the input we get is worth the wait"

Teacher

You said we did...

In 2024, with high numbers of requests for service and lower numbers of Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) we trialled an approach which had Speech and Language Therapy Assistants supporting our team to 'get to know the caseload' by making phone calls to parents and educational settings, and setting targets.

Following feedback from the community, we have revised our approach so that an assessment from a SLT is now typically the first step.

