



Easy Read: A Guide for Children and Young People

The Language and Communication Service (LCS)

Supporting children and young people with an identified language need



Contents

<u>Introduction</u>	4
<u>What does the Language and Communication Service (LCS) do?</u>	5
<u>How to get support</u>	7
<u>Pre-school</u>	8
<u>School aged children</u>	9
<u>What happens next?</u>	10
<u>How much support will you get?</u>	12
<u>What if there are concerns about language development?</u>	13
<u>For more information</u>	14



In this Easy Read document, difficult words are in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are blue and underlined. These are links that will go to a website or page which has more information.



Introduction

This document is about the Education Authority's Language and Communication Service (LCS).

The Language and Communication Service helps children and young people who:

- Have a diagnosis of **Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)**.
- Have an identified language need.

People with Developmental Language Disorder can have difficulty communicating, learning and interacting with other people. Throughout this document, we will use the term DLD.



What does the LCS do?



The Language and Communication Service gives support, or advice and guidance to children and young people:

- At pre-school or nursery school.
- At school.
- At post primary school.



We support you by:

- Offering advice and guidance in school.
- Sharing helpful strategies with your parents.
- Providing targeted intervention sessions in school, as appropriate.

We can give
parents, carers
and school staff:



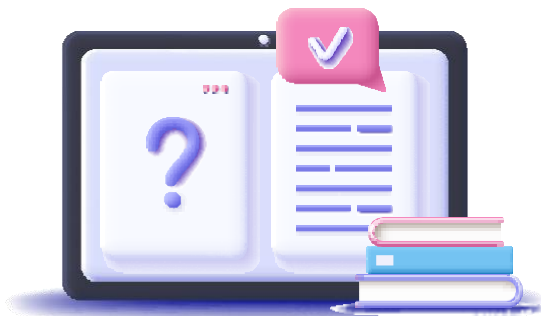
- Information.



- Advice.



- Training (**for school staff only**)



- Guidance.

How to get support



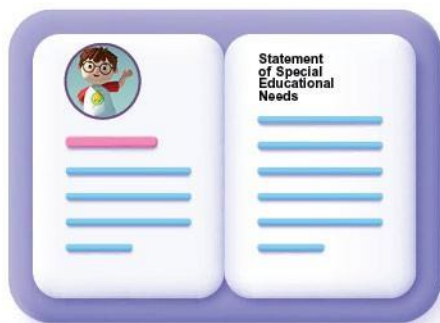
An **educational psychologist** will tell us that you need support from us.



Educational psychologists have been trained to understand how children and young people behave and learn.



We can help you with or without a **Statement of Special Educational Needs**.



A **Statement of Special Educational Needs** is a document that describes a child's needs and the special help they should receive.

Pre-school



Usually, an educational psychologist will tell us about pre-school children who need support.



If a child is being assessed for language difficulties and has other needs, the educational psychologist might tell another service who are experts in working with very young children.



When the educational psychologist or the other service tells us about a child, we will try and get in touch with their parents.

School Aged Children



An educational psychologist will tell us about school aged children who need support.



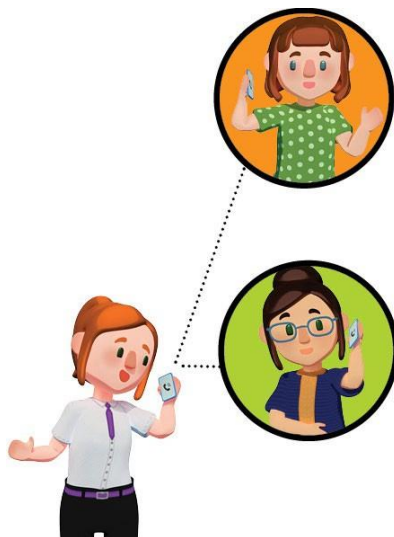
When the educational psychologist tells us about you, we will get in touch with your parents.

What happens next?



When we hear about you, we will assign a member of our team to help.

They will:



- Talk to your parents.
- Talk to school staff who know you.
- Talk to speech therapy if you attend clinic.

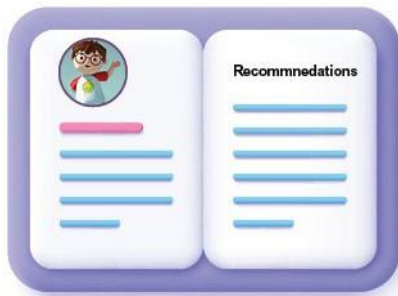


- Talk to you. Your feelings and ideas matter too!



Once we have all the information, we will provide school with **recommendations** on how to support you. Recommendations are ideas on how to help you.

This may be in the form of:



- Information and advice about how school staff can help you in school.



- Guides, videos and training.



- Working directly with you on learning new skills.

How much support will you get?



To make sure we give the right support, we will listen to opinions of:



- You.



- School staff, educational psychologists, and speech therapists.



- Parents or carers.



- The support we give you will be tailored to your needs.

What if there are concerns about language development?



If your parents think you have DLD or have difficulty understanding or using language, they should talk to the speech therapist, class teacher or GP.



Your parents may contact us for general advice and support by telephoning the local office. The telephone numbers are on **page 14**.

For more information

You can look at our website for information, advice, and resources:



[Language and Communication Service](#)

If you or your parents need more information, please contact us by:



Phone:
028 82411305

OR



Email:

LCSGeneral@eani.org.uk