



The Thread of Communication

The importance of communication often goes unrecognised but it underpins everything in life and is a basic human right



What do Speech and Language Therapists do?

- R – Recognise strengths and identify needs
- E – Empower and enable
- A – Advocate
- L – Listen
- I – Involve everyone in a person's life
- S – Support independence
- E – Enlighten and educate

Where do you find SALTs?



Imagine if...

You were hungry, but couldn't let anyone know

You couldn't explain where the pain was in your body

You have everything done for you and you don't even have a choice over which drink you're given



5 Good Communication Standards

1. How the person communicates
2. How the person makes choices
3. How to support communication needs
4. How to create opportunities for communication
5. How the person is involved in their health and well-being

Joint working with other AHPs

Bob was finding it difficult to not engage in behaviours that were challenging for others.

SALT identified Bob's communication abilities and needs so Occupational Therapists could pitch their work to the right level for Bob.

Outcome: Bob was able to identify how he was feeling and regulate his emotions with the help of a sensory checklist. The risk of him being involved with forensic services was reduced.



Jasmine was struggling to have a blood test and nurses were supporting desensitisation.

SALT developed a social story to help Jasmine understand what was involved and that it would be OK.

Outcome: Jasmine had her blood test with support, and was found to have anaemia, which could then be successfully treated.

"10% of children have a speech, language and communication need – it's the most prevalent childhood disability" ICAN, 2011

"65% of young offenders, screened, were found to need SALT intervention", RCSLT, 2017

"81% of children with emotional and behavioural disorders have unidentified communication needs", RCSLT, 2019

"Up to 90% of people with a learning disability have communication needs" BILD, 2001

"By 2051, in the UK, 2 million people will have dementia, and many will have communication needs", Dementia UK, 2014

