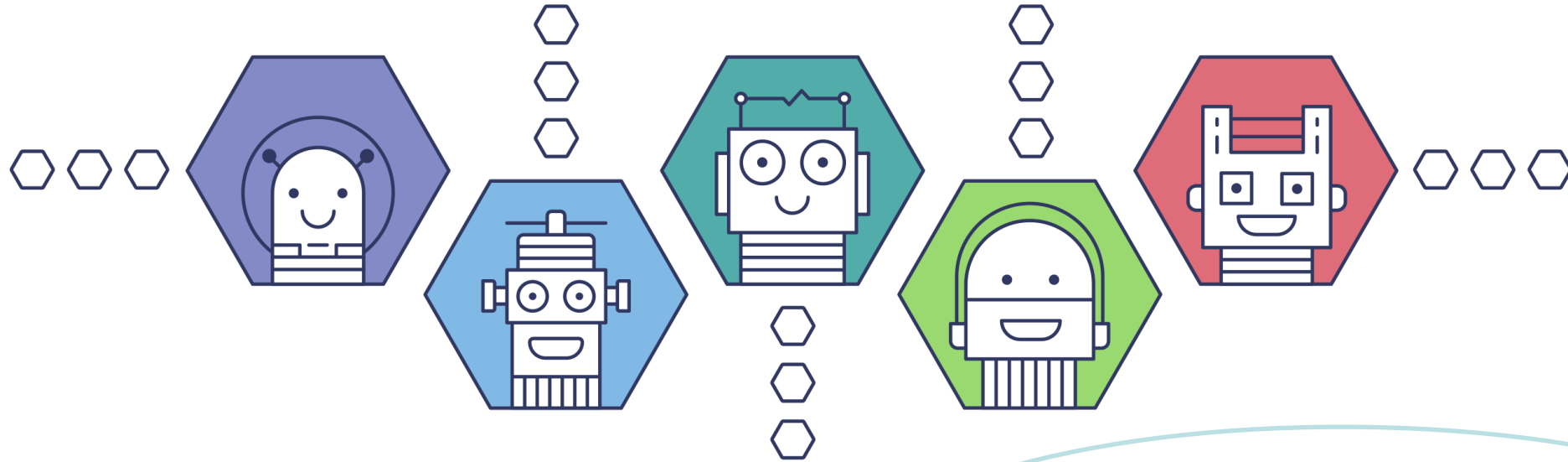


Balanced System Pathway Relaunch Event

Tuesday 6th October 2026
National Ice Centre, Nottingham



Wifi Network: NIC_GUEST
Password:
Celebrating.25.years!

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions – What have we got planned?

09.10	Our hopes for the session – key messages and take aways
09.15	The Balanced System, the Pathway and the Bigger Picture
09.30	Demo Time
09.40	Case Studies
10.15	Break
10.30	Table Exercises – Case Studies and Examples
11.00	Table Exercises - Sharing Learning
11.15	Shared Learning Feedback
11.35	Professional CPD
11.40	Next Steps
11.50	Closing Questions and Evaluation
12.00	Close

Our hopes for the session

Key messages and take aways

- Welcome
- Housekeeping

Intro

Introduce yourself:

- Name
- Organisation
- Role
- Share a favourite speech, language or communication tip, fact or resource that you know

Aims of the Session:

Pathway showcase

See how the Balanced System Pathway can be used effectively.

Real-life case studies

Hear examples demonstrating effective use and impact.

Hands-on exploration

Try practical sessions that bring the Pathway to life.

Consider how you can use the Pathway

Think of ways the Balanced System Pathway could be used within your role.

Network

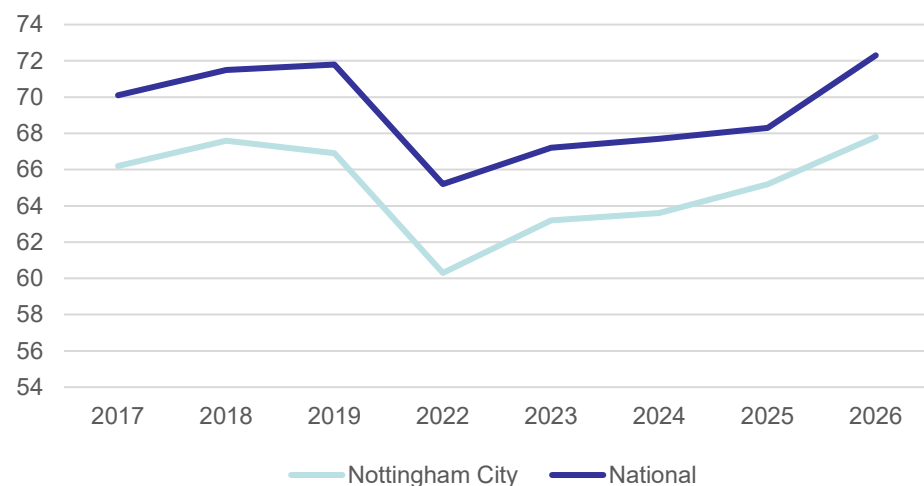
Connect with other services and colleagues to learn more about the roles people have in supporting SLC outcomes .

The Bigger Picture: Best Start in Life

-  **Strengthen family support:** Roll out a national network of Best Start [Family Hubs](#) to integrate health, education, and parenting services.
-  **Expand early education access:** Make early education and childcare more affordable and accessible, including support for funded hours.
-  **Early SEND identification:** Spot special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) early to provide timely support.
-  **Empower parents:** Provide trusted, expert guidance via the [Best Start in Life website](#) to support parents as a child's first educator.
-  **Improve child development:** Boost school readiness so that 75% of children reach a Good Level of Development (GLD) by 2028. **Nottingham City's target is for 72.6% of children to reach a GLD by 2028.**

[NCC Best Start in Life Strategy 26-28 | Early Help Nottingham](#)

GLD Over Time



Area of Learning	All	Non-FSM	FSM	Difference
All Primes	74.7	77.9	66.3	11.6
All Specifics	66.7	70.9	54.6	16.3
C&L	79.2	81.8	72.4	9.4
Listening & Attention	81.6	83.9	75.3	8.6
Speaking	81.5	83.5	76.5	7.0
PD	83.1	85.3	76.6	8.7
Gross Motor	91.9	92.9	89.5	3.4
Fine Motor	83.5	85.6	77.3	8.3
PSED	83.3	85.3	78.0	7.3
Self-Regulation	85.2	86.9	80.6	6.3
Managing Self	86.7	88.5	81.7	6.8
Building Relationships	87.5	89.2	83.5	5.7
Literacy	68.5	72.9	56.0	16.9
Comprehension	77.2	80.4	68.9	11.5
Word reading	72.9	77.4	60.0	17.4
Writing	70.0	74.3	57.9	16.4
Maths	74.1	78.5	62.0	16.5
Number	76.0	80.1	64.9	15.2
Number Patterns	74.9	79.2	63.0	16.2
UW	77.8	80.4	71.3	9.1
Past and Present	79.1	81.5	73.2	8.3
People, Culture & Communities	78.8	81.4	72.3	9.1
Natural World	81.2	83.5	75.5	8.0
EAD	81.8	84.2	75.5	8.7
Creating with Materials	83.9	86.0	78.4	7.6
Being Imaginative & Expressive	83.3	85.7	77.5	8.2
GLD	67.8	72.1	55.5	16.6



Nottingham City Pathway

Relaunch Event
6.10.26

Bibiana Wigley

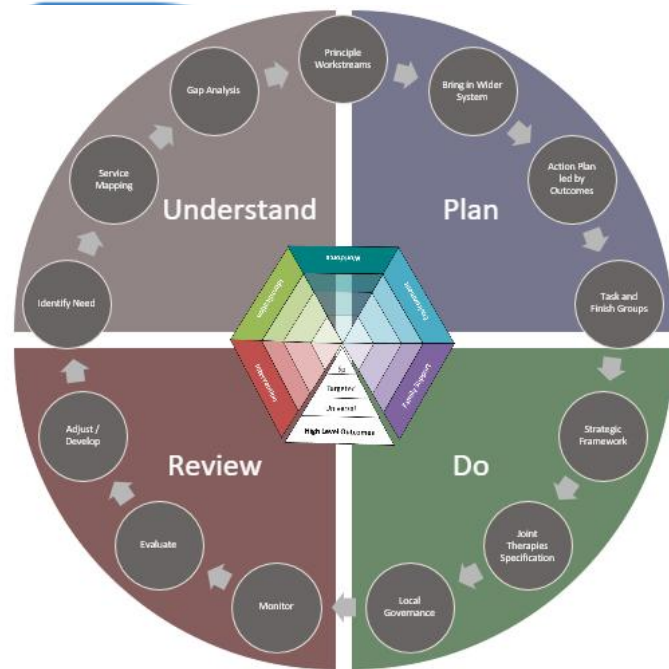
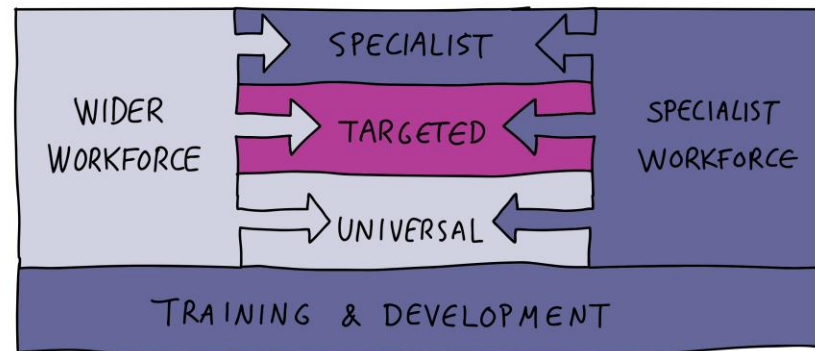
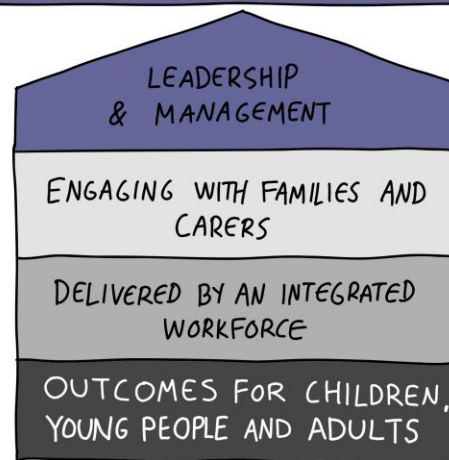
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Background

- DfE Early Outcomes Fund project in East Midlands including Nottingham City
- Wanted a platform for sharing information and resources to meet the Balanced System® High Level Outcomes
- One platform – multiple locations/services
- Dorset and Worcestershire added subsequently

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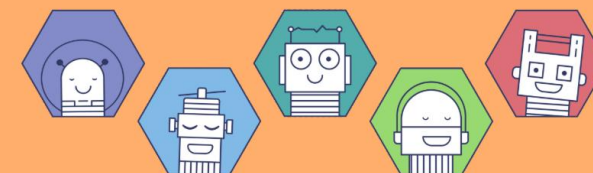
SCHOOLS AND SETTINGS

THE
BALANCED
SYSTEM

Home + Parents and carers + Professionals My pathway Search Login

Welcome to The Balanced System® pathway

A journey to support speech, language, and communication, physical activity and movement skills as well as participation in everyday activities for children and young people.

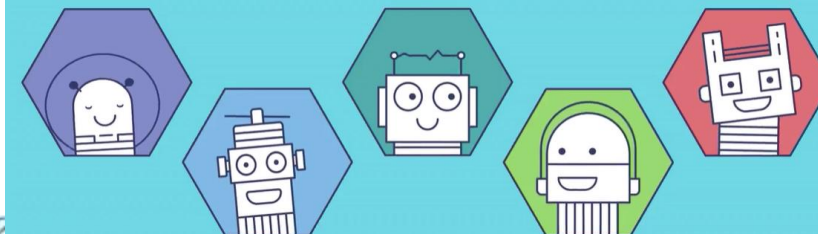


THE
BALANCED
SYSTEM

☐ What do you want to prove? ☐ Tools to Prove it! ☐ My Prove it!

Welcome to The Balanced System® Prove it! An impact tool for speech, language and communication

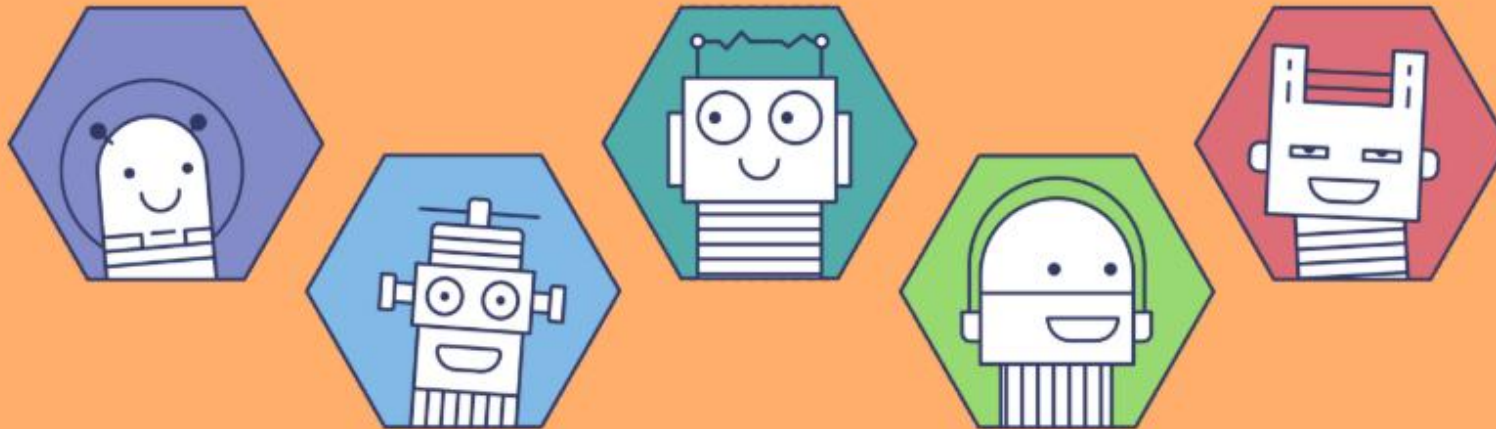
A tool for parents, carers and professionals to know support is making a difference



supporting change

Welcome to The Balanced System[®] pathway

A journey to support speech, language, and communication, physical activity and movement skills as well as participation in everyday activities for children and young people.





Structure

- Fifteen outcome areas
- Six age brackets
- Both local and national resources
- Multiple language options:
 - Translate live screen
 - Pdf download into multiple languages
- Pathway Assistant Chatbot
- Originally SLCN only; physical activity & movement; participation skills now included

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Purpose

- A single platform to inform practitioners and families of all the local and national resources available relevant to speech, language and communication
- A tool for practitioners and families to choose appropriate resources, support and information to create personalised pathways
- Pathways might include universal, targeted and individualised resources across the Balanced System®
Five Strands

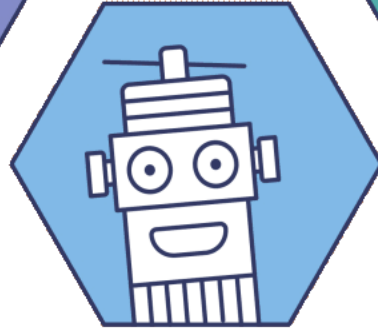
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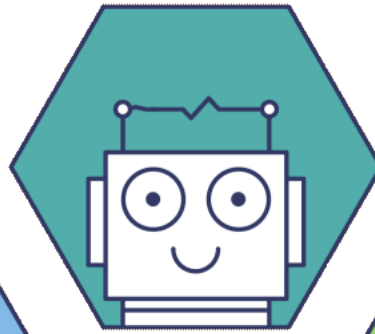
The Balanced System® Pathway



Family Support



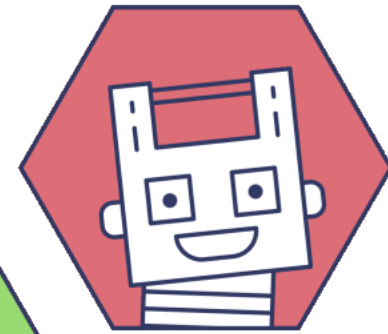
Environment



Workforce



Identification



Intervention



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THE BALANCED SYSTEM® HIGH LEVEL OUTCOMES FOR SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION NEEDS



FAMILY SUPPORT	ENVIRONMENT	WORKFORCE	IDENTIFICATION	INTERVENTION
FS3. Specialist - Parents and carers of children with specialist SLCN receive specific specialist support to ensure confidence in their role as a key communication partner for their child and to increase their understanding of the specific communication challenges associated with their child's needs. Young people with SLCN are enabled to be active participants decisions about their support.	EE3. Specialist - Places where children and young people with specialist and complex SLCN spend their time for learning and leisure are communication friendly. The necessary adaptations are in place to maximise access in addition to the enhancements expected at a universal and targeted levels.	WW3. Specialist - Knowledge skills and expertise are developed in identified members of the wider workforce in order to ensure that, working with specialist support, there are staff that are confident and competent to support the delivery of specialist interventions including individual and small group work, support parents, adapt the environment and identify children who need specialist support.	ID3. Specialist - Children with specialist SLCN have their needs identified effectively and quickly. This includes multidisciplinary assessment where appropriate.	IN3. Specialist - Children and young people needing specialist intervention for their SLCN receive appropriate and timely provision in the most functionally appropriate context for their needs. Progress measures will include activity, participation and well-being goals in addition to goals relating to their core SLC impairment.
FS2. Targeted - Parents and carers of children with identified speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) access additional specific support to ensure confidence in their role as a key communication partner and educational support for their child. Families and young people with SLCN are supported to make choices and access services.	EE2. Targeted - Places where children and young people with identified SLCN spend their time for learning and leisure are communication friendly. Appropriate additional enhancements are made that enable children and young people with identified SLCN to more easily understand and to express themselves.	WW2. Targeted - The wider workforce is supported to develop specific knowledge and skills to support children and young people with identified SLCN. Setting and school staff are confident and competent to deliver targeted interventions, support parents, adapt the environment and identify children who need additional support.	ID2. Targeted - Efficient and accessible processes are in place that support the identification of more specific SLCN. The wider workforce, setting and school staff are supported to be confident and competent to identify children and young people who may require targeted support and/or referral to specialist services for their SLCN.	IN2. Targeted - Children and young people benefiting from targeted interventions will have access to evidence based targeted interventions to develop core speech, language and communication skills delivered in the most appropriate functional context. These might include 1:1 and / or small group interventions that are typically designed by specialist practitioners and delivered by those with appropriate training.
FS1. Universal - All parents and carers are supported with information and resources to encourage their role as effective primary communicative partners for their children. Families and young people are able to make proactive choices with respect to their child's or own needs.	EE1. Universal - Places where children and young people spend their time for learning and leisure are communication friendly. Environments have appropriate enhancements that make it easier for all children and young people to understand and express themselves.	WW1. Universal - The wider workforce is supported to have a good basic understanding of speech, language and communication including supportive strategies. Setting and school staff are confident in their role as facilitators of communication. The wider workforce has access to appropriate training around speech, language and communication.	ID1. Universal - Early identification of children and young people whose speech, language and communication needs may require targeted or specialist support is as efficient and accessible as possible. Preidentification information and advice is available in a given area, school or setting.	IN1. Universal - Homes, settings and schools are supported to develop the language and communication skills of all children and young people through language enrichment and supportive activities.



Outcomes First



Outcome
B



A

**What do I want
help with?**

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Using the pathway site

- A demonstration to show:
 - Parent view
 - Practitioner view
 - Pathway assistant
 - Translate function
 - Downloads available

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Case Study: SLT Drop In

Background:

- Zinedin is 2 years and 2 months old and his parents attended a Drop In at Southglade Family Hub.
- Dad speaks to Zinedin in Urdu and Mum speaks to him in English. Dad is thinking about stopping using Urdu with Zinedin.
- Parents are concerned about Zinedin's spoken language.
- He only uses 5 words in Urdu and 5 words in English.
- He is very sociable and there are no concerns about his understanding of language.

Zinedin's Pathway ... in English and Urdu

Information section:

- Bilingualism Advice

Information section – resources that offer extra support:

- Home Talk – delivered by Speech and Language Therapy Service

Services:

- Speech and Language Therapy Advice Line

Activities:

- Say what I see
- Say what I would if I could
- Talk about what's happening



THE BALANCED SYSTEM

The Balanced System® pathway

A journey to support speech, language, and communication, physical activity and movement skills as well as participation in everyday activities for children and young people. Learn more using the code to the right.



Bilingualism



Cost: free

Links

Website: <https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/cslt-bilingualism>



Home Talk



Cost: Free



THE BALANCED SYSTEM

متوازن سسٹم® راستہ

تقریر، زبان، اور مواصلات، جسمانی سرگرمی اور نقل و حرکت کی مہارتوں کا ساتھ ساتھ بچوں اور نوجوانوں کو لے کر روزمرہ کی سرگرمیوں میں حصہ لینے کے لیے ایک سفری دائیں طرف کوڈ کا استعمال کرنے کو توجہ دیا جاتا ہے۔



دو لسانیات



لاگت

لنکس

وبسائٹ: <https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/cslt-bilingualism>



گھر کی باتیں



لاگت





Links

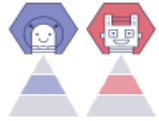
Website:

<https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjm4n7578.pdf&ver=13337>

Facebook: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife/>

X: <https://twitter.com/NottsLang4Life>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nottslang4life/?hl=en>



Speech and Language Advice Line



Who can help

Name: Speech and Language Therapy Service

Email: ChildrensSLT@nottshc.nhs.uk



لنکس

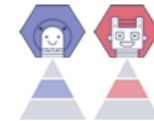
ویب سائٹ:

<https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjm4n7578.pdf&ver=13337>

Facebook: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife/>

X: <https://twitter.com/NottsLang4Life>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nottslang4life/?hl=en>



تقریر اور زبان مشورہ لائن



کون مدد کر سکتا

Speech and Language Therapy Service: نام

ای میل: ChildrensSLT@nottshc.nhs.uk

فون: Option 1 3387 123 0300



Phone: 0300 123 3387 Option 1

Website:
<https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/specialist-childrens-speech-and-language-therapy>

Links

Website:
<https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/latest-news/speech-and-language-therapy-advice-line-7645/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife/>



Say what I see!



ويب سائٹ:
<https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/specialist-childrens-speech-and-language-therapy>

لنکس

ويب سائٹ:
<https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/latest-news/speech-and-language-therapy-advice-line-7645/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife/>



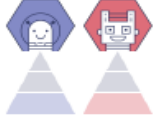
کاو جو میں دیکھ رہا ہوں!





Links

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife/?locale=en_GB



Say what I would if I could!



Who can help

Name: Speech and Language Therapy Service

Email: ChildrensSLT@nottshc.nhs.uk



کہو اگر میں کر سکتا تو کیا کروں!

کیا کریں...

اشاروں، جسم کی حرکات، آوازوں، اور الفاظ کی کوششوں کو بامعنی ہونے کے طور پر بیان کریں
کہو اگر وہ کر سکتے تو کیا کریں گے!

کیسے؟

مثال: اگر وہ اپنے بازو اٹھاتے ہیں اور "اے" کہتے ہیں، تو آپ کہتے ہیں "آپ کو گلے لگانا چاہیے!"

کیوں؟

انہیں یہ جاننے میں مدد کرتا ہے کہ ان کی بات چیت آپ کے لیے کچھ معنی رکھتی ہے
انہیں وہ الفاظ دیتا ہے جو شاید وہ کہنے کی کوشش کر رہے ہوں
اضافی وسائل:

بیان کریں کہ کیا ہو رہا ہے: ہاتھ دھونا - BBC ٹی بی بی پیپل

یہاں ڈاؤن لوڈ کریں: [Say%20what%20I%20would%20if%20I%20could.png](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56901010)



کون مدد کر سکتا ہے۔

دیکھیں ☆ میں شامل کریں راستہ:

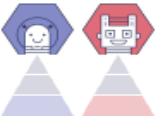
nottslanguage for life/

THE BALANCED SYSTEM



Links

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife/?locale=en_GB



Talk about what's happening!




Who can help

Name: Speech and Language Therapy Service
Email: ChildrensSLT@nottshc.nhs.uk

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THE BALANCED SYSTEM



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Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife/?locale=en_GB



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Case Study: Chloe – A Day Nursery Manager

Background:

- Chloe is the Manager of a Day Nursery in Bulwell.
- She has just completed staff member Tori's appraisal.
- Tori mentioned that she wants to increase her knowledge of SLCN and be able to confidently share key messages with parents.
- There is a child due to start in a few weeks who is using Makaton signs and Tori will be their key worker.
- Tori has advised that she only knows the signs for please and thank you.
- Chloe used the website to find out what is available to support Tori's professional development.

Chloe & Tori's Pathway

Workforce section:

Local Offer:

- Language Lead role
- Talking Matters Training
- Communication for All Training
- Communication Supporting Classrooms Observation Tool

Interventions:

Local Offer:

- Notts Top Tips for Communication (Notts Year of Communication)



THE[®] BALANCED SYSTEM

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Language Lead role



Cost: Free

[img]

Who can help

Name: Nottingham City Early Years Team

Email: earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/>

Name: SLT Service

Email: ChildrensSLT@nottshc.nhs.uk

Phone: 0300 1233387

Website: <https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/language-for-life>



Links

Website: <https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/language-lead-role>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife/>



Talking Matters Training



Cost: free

TALKING MATTERS

Who can help

Name: Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service

Email: childrensslts@nottshc.nhs.uk

Phone: 0300 1233387

Website: <https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/slt-training/>



Links

Website: <https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/slt-training/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife/>

X: <https://twitter.com/nottslang4life>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nottslang4life/>



Communication Supporting Classrooms Observation Tool



Cost: Free

Communication Supporting
Classroom Observation Tool

Who can help

Name: Nottingham Schools

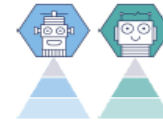
Email: include.admin@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Website:
<https://www.nottinghamschools.org.uk/send-inclusion/routes-to-inclusion-r2i/>



Links

Website:
<https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/talking-point/for-professionals/the-communication-trust/more-resources/classroom-supporting-tool/>



Communication for All Training



Cost: Free

**COMMUNICATION
FOR ALL**

Who can help

Name: Amy Burton

Email: childrenslt@nottshc.nhs.uk

Phone: 0300 1233387

Website: <https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/slt-training/>



Links

Website: <https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/slt-training/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife/>



Notts Top Tips for Communication



Cost: Free



Who can help

Name: Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service

Email: childrensslt@nottshc.nhs.uk

Phone: 0300 1233387

Website:
<https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/specialist-childrens-speech-and-language-therapy/>

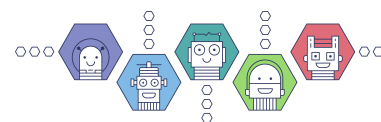


Links

Website:
<https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/slt-notts-top-tips-for-communication>

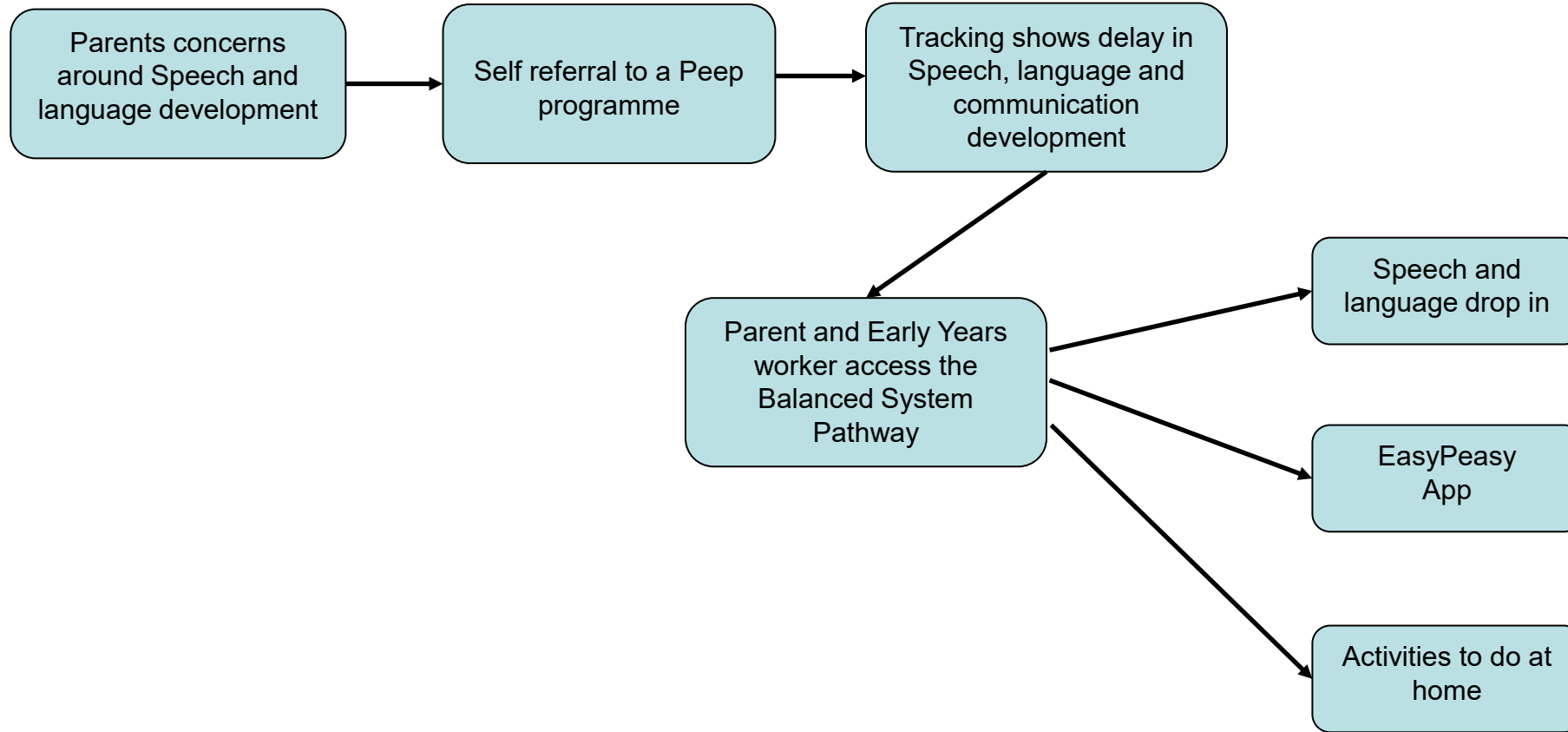
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nottslang4life/>



Case Study – Family Help

An example of how the Pathway has been used in Family Help



Break Time!

Create an account whilst you have a drink

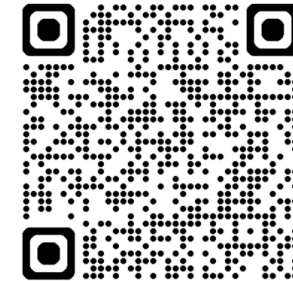
How to access the Balanced System Pathway

Nottingham City Council

- 1 Search for “The Balanced System”**
Open the website from your search results. Or visit:
<https://pathway.thebalancedsystem.org/>
- 2 Find Nottingham City Council**
Scroll down until you see the Nottingham City Council logo then click on it.
- 3 Create your pathway**
You can then start creating your pathway.

Or Scan for the Nottingham City

This QR code links directly to the specific Nottingham City Council area.



Over to you for a play!

Scenarios

Look at the scenarios on your table

Remember to select Nottingham City (so that you will see locally available resources first) or just use the QR code as this should take you straight there

Try to create a pathway to support each scenario

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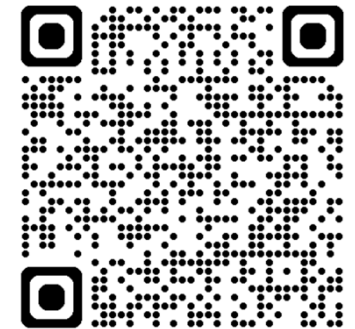


Table Exercises

Having a Go - Working through examples on tables

Scenario A

You are a practitioner working in Nottingham City with a group of toddlers and would like to develop your knowledge and skills around typical speech and language development. What resources can you find available to you, through the Balanced System Pathway? (Use the professional tab)

Scenario B

You are working with a parent who is concerned about their young child's speech and language development, English is not their first language, and they would like to know what they can do to help their child at home. What does the Balanced System sign post you to? (Use the parent and carer drop down)

Reflection 1 (*Table Facilitators to capture key points to feedback*)

- Was the Pathway easy to navigate and know which age range/strand of the pathway to start with?
- Did it matter where you started?
- Which resources did you come across that you weren't already aware of?
- Any challenges?

Try and find some of these resources using the Balanced System Pathway.

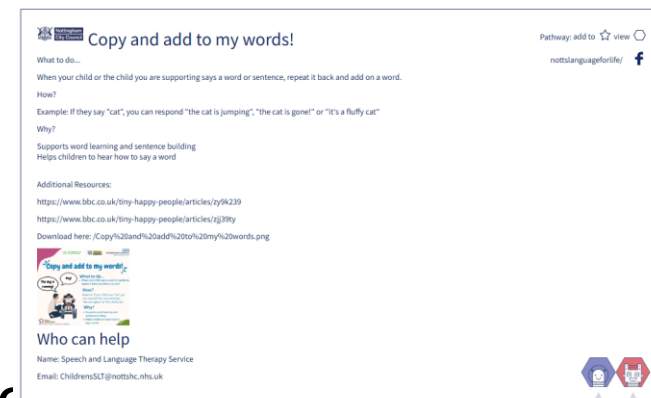
Reflection 2: (*Table Facilitators to capture key points to feedback*)

How did you locate it?

Was it where you thought it was going to be?

Is there somewhere else that this resource could be located?

Did you find anything additional?



Over to you!

- Think about a family or child that you work with, how you use it to support them?
- How could you use it with your team?
- What would you want to draw to people's attention?

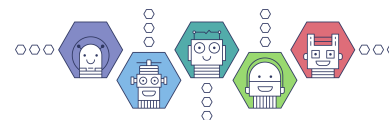
Reflection 3: Thinking of the examples you have just tried...

- what worked well?
- were there any challenges?
- how will you use the Pathway going forwards?

(Table Facilitators to capture key points to feedback)

Shared Learning Feedback

By Table Facilitators



Is there anything else that you would like demonstrating?

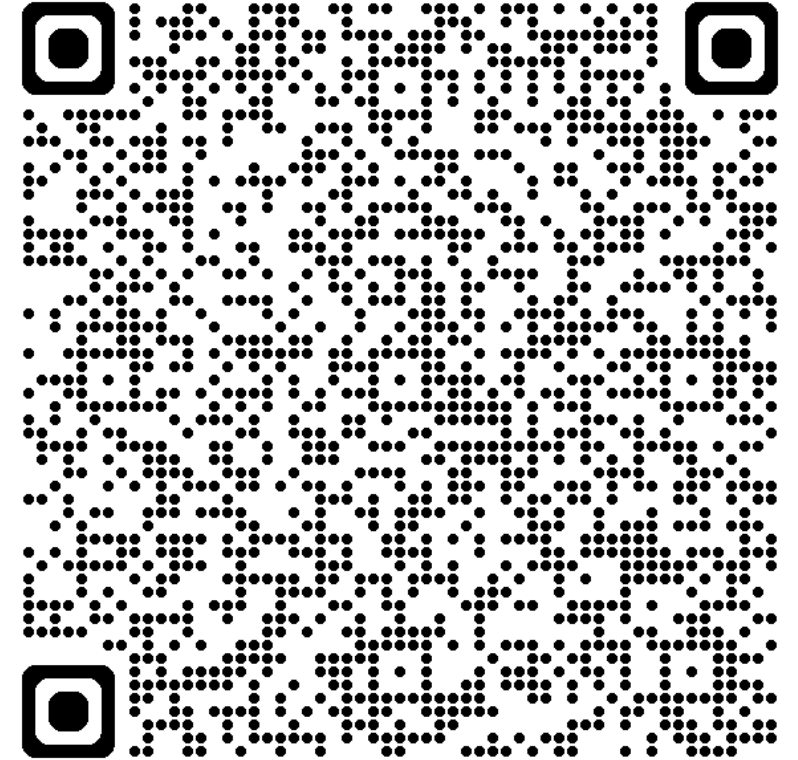
Showing again?

Round Up and What Next?



- Keeping the pathway up to date – termly comms
 - Use the QR code on your table to let us know if anything is missing/needs updating
 - Cascade the information to your Teams – slides will be shared to support this
- If you need any further support contact max.dahle@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or if you are in a setting your Support Worker
- Use it! You can't break it! Get familiar with it, it's here to stay and collectively we have the power to make it a fantastic resource

Closing Questions and Evaluation



**Thank you for your attendance and
contributions!**

Have a great afternoon!

