

## Communication

Communication is one of the most important areas that we work on with all of our students. The area of communication encompasses so much more than spoken word it includes:



- Music
- Touch
- Art
- Music
- Social Stories
- Technology
- Gestures & Body Language

Communication is an essential skill for all learning. Learning as part of the L2LPs or L1LPs is inclusive of both verbal and non-verbal modes of communication. Some students may also use augmentative communication systems to demonstrate communication skills.

The recent crisis has meant that the way we communicate has changed significantly. We are no longer in daily person to person contact with families, grandparents, classmate's teachers etc. However it's really important to remember that we communicate with our immediate family constantly. There are amazing opportunities everyday to practise and develop communication skills.

Communication will regularly appear as a target in the students' IEP. Activities that support the development of communication skills will also demonstrate evidence of learning outcomes in relation to the PLUs (Priority Level Indicators) associated with their Level 1 and Level 2 learning programme. Many of the learning outcomes will be interconnected and will overlap substantially. This

allows the student to be credited for all skillsets they demonstrate throughout the activity.

If we look at the activities listed below to support SLT targets – each of these activities will also cover elements of the PLUs associated with their Level 1 and Level 2 Programmes

<b>Activities to enhance everyday Communication</b>	
Verbal / Non Verbal <b>Element of the PLU</b> <b>Communication &amp; Literacy</b> Speaking appropriately for a variety of purposes and demonstrating attentiveness as a listener.	Provide opportunities to request items Playing games Encouraging news & chats at mealtimes Playing board games
Attention and Listening <b>Element of the PLU</b> <b>Communication &amp; Literacy</b> Speaking appropriately for a variety of purposes and demonstrating attentiveness as a listener & Using non-verbal behaviour to get the message across	Playing games to develop listening skills
Written <b>Element of the PLU</b> <b>Communication &amp; Literacy</b> Using a range of writing forms to express opinions & Using expressive arts to communicate	Drawing pictures Writing postcards/letters/cards Using maps to give directions
Visual Communication <b>Element of the PLU</b> <b>Communication &amp; Literacy</b> Using expressive arts to communicate &	Discussing visuals in books Examining road signs Looking for Logos Playing games i.e. Pictionary

Reading to obtain basic information	
Technology <b>Element of the PLU</b> <b>Communication &amp; Literacy</b> Using suitable technologies for a range of purposes	Under the guidance of parents – creating e-mails etc. for family & friends Using Zoom, Skype and FaceTime to communicate with friends and family

As always the priority for our students is providing engaging activities that offer the opportunity to reinforce key skills and support the acquisition of life skills that will allow for the most independence moving forward.

Here are some websites that may be useful when looking for activities to support communication skills:

[www.kahoot.com](http://www.kahoot.com)

[www://middletownautism.com](http://www://middletownautism.com)

<https://do2learn.com>

<https://www.sensationalkids.ie>

Sharing and enjoying information should always be fun and reinforcing in itself the social component is key. For further information and links to many useful resources, the followings links will guide you to the appropriate page of the JCT website

L1LPs

<https://padlet.com/jct2/8nzpdhjn7fvt>

L2LPs

<https://padlet.com/jct2/qnm0ecsh6vzy>