



**Specialist Teaching & Educational
Psychology Service**



**Training to support children's language and
learning**

ELKLAN SPEECH & LANGUAGE SUPPORT FOR 5–11s

Revised 2026 curriculum | Professional development course

Three full days of training. The Pavilion, Cheltenham

WHEN

9.00am–4.30pm

WHERE

The Pavillion, Cheltenham

PLACES

Limited to 18 participants

Practical strategies that make communication, learning and participation more accessible

Designed for teachers, teaching assistants, HLTAs, SENCOs and other school professionals supporting primary-aged pupils. The course develops up-to-date knowledge alongside practical approaches that can be used immediately in classrooms and across the wider school environment.

WHY BOOK?

- ✓ Build confidence in recognising and supporting speech, language and communication needs.
- ✓ Gain classroom-ready strategies for interaction, understanding, vocabulary, expressive language, narrative and speech.
- ✓ Create communication-friendly environments that improve access, engagement, independence and belonging.
- ✓ Learn through practical activities, discussion, examples and reflection on everyday school practice.

COURSE DATES 2027

Three full days:

21st April 2027

26th May 2027

7th July 2027

WHAT THE TEN SESSIONS COVER

1 What is communication?

The communication chain, considering communication needs, using a communication-friendly checklist.

2 Non-verbal communication and adult–child interaction

How non-verbal communication and responsive adult interaction shape connection, understanding and participation.

3 Social communication skills

Readiness to learn, neurodiversity, the double empathy framework and practical support for pragmatic/social communication.

4 Listening, attention and understanding spoken language

Neuro-affirming approaches to attention and listening, plus Information Carrying Words to adjust language demands.

5 Memory and independent learning

A practical model of memory and strategies that support retention, task completion and greater independence.

ELKLAN 5–11s | REVISED 2026 CURRICULUM

SESSIONS 6–10

6 The Blank Language Scheme

Supporting understanding beyond simple sentences, including verbal reasoning and the additional Elklan Level 5.

7 Promoting vocabulary development

How to select, teach, revisit and embed vocabulary so that new words are understood, retained and used.

8 Expressive language and narrative development

Supporting sentence formulation and storytelling, with greater emphasis on Colourful Semantics.

9 Unclear speech and links with literacy

Speech sound development, practical support for unclear speech, phonological awareness and links with reading and writing.

10 Stammering and linking it all together

Optional guidance on stammering, environmental adjustments, advice for colleagues and families, and planning next steps.

HOW THIS COURSE PROMOTES INCLUSION

ACCESS

Adults learn to adapt language, interaction and classroom communication so more children can understand and take part.

PARTICIPATION

Support for social communication, expressive language and narrative helps pupils contribute, connect and express their ideas.

BELONGING

Neurodiversity-affirming practice and attention to the environment help reduce barriers without locating the difficulty solely within the child.

LINKS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S SEND REFORM DIRECTION

The course supports the direction of travel in the 2026 SEND reform proposals. In particular, it strengthens:

- earlier identification and support for communication needs
- inclusive mainstream practice and stronger universal provision
- a skilled, confident workforce able to adapt teaching
- consistent, evidence-informed support across classrooms and settings
- partnership with families and other professionals around practical support

COST & BOOKING

Find the current cost and reserve a place through the GCCPlus website:

www.businesssupportservices.org

ONLY 18

PLACES AVAILABLE

For course enquiries: STEPS@gloucestershire.gov.uk