

## Phonics advice for reception teachers

Next year your children will need to complete the phonics test. Many children with SEN/speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) will struggle to access the test due to poor language or phonological awareness skills.

Our guide *Communicating Phonics* provides guidance around access and interpretation of the phonics test, but also provides information on the foundation skills that children need. It contains information on:

- Information on typical development of phonological awareness skills
- Supporting these skills to support phonics and wider literacy
- Knowing aspects of language that sit beneath literacy
- Supporting specific aspects for children with SLCN – e.g. language catch up programmes
- Some children with SLCN are difficult to spot, knowing what to expect at different ages and stages can support early identification of these children. Improve your awareness of the ‘ages and stages’ of children’s speech and language by using a free guide like *Universally Speaking*, produced by The Communication Trust and Pearson Assessment, available at [www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources)

Detailed information on different types of SLCN/SEN has been produced to guide teachers through access and interpretation of the phonics test as well as giving more general information around literacy for children with SLCN/SEN.

For more information download *Communicating Phonics*. The guide has been produced by The Communication Trust, a coalition of nearly 50 voluntary organisations with expertise in speech, language and communication. It’s available to download from [www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/phonics](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/phonics)