

Liz Edmonds

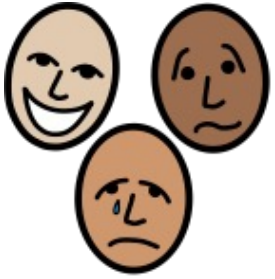
Highly Specialist Speech & Language Therapist



Speech & Language Therapy

Merton Integrated Adult Learning Disabilities Team



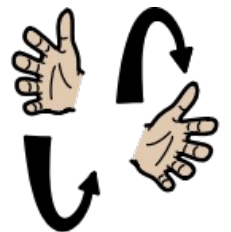


Up to 90% of people with learning disabilities have communication difficulties.



Communication difficulties can make it hard to:

- Share ideas and thoughts with others
- Make choices
- Understand people around you
- Be involved in what is happening around you and make decisions
- Express emotions and feelings



Five good communication standards *(RCSLT, 2013)*



Standard 1: There is a detailed description of how best to communicate with individuals.

Standard 2: Services demonstrate how they support individuals with communication needs to be involved with decisions about their care and their services.

Standard 3: Staff value and use competently the best approaches to communication with each individual they support.

Standard 4: Services create opportunities, relationships and environments that make individuals want to communicate.

Standard 5: Individuals are supported to understand and express their needs in relation to their health and wellbeing.

What can the
SLT team do?

Identify Communication strengths and needs



- Communication assessments
- Provide reports
- Help customers identify ideas for Person Centred Care Plans
- Make communication profiles and passports

What can the
SLT team do?

Support with strategies



- Using visuals aids
- Makaton
- Social stories & Comic strip conversations
- High tech and low tech AAC
- Talking Mats

What can the
SLT team do?

Help to make resources



- Visual timetables
- Life stories
- Now and next boards
- Choice boards
- Word Mats
- Task planners
- Emotional regulation resources

What can the
SLT team do?

Provide training and share knowledge



Support staff and families to use a range of communication approaches including Makaton, intensive interaction, Talking Mats etc.

What can the
SLT team do?

Advice on communication friendly environments



Share ideas on how to make a space that encourages and promotes good communication.

What can the
SLT team do?

Support referrals and work with other professionals



- Work alongside and support: care staff, social workers, nurses, OT's, physio's, psychologists
- Behaviour support services
- Hearing assessments
- Dysphagia SLT's (eating and drinking)

Communication Profiles & Passports

Standard 1: There is a detailed description of how best to communicate with individuals.



My communication profile

Please read this so you can help me communicate.

NAME: Stephen

Things that people like and admire about me:

- I like to know what is happening and will go into each room to find out what is going on!
- I am good at carrying out practical tasks



Things I like:



I like to watch things going on around me. I also like to walk around and see what everyone is up to!

I like being with other people

Music: especially disco and relaxation music. I love listening to music on my headphones

I like doing practical things that involve physical movement – like working in the garden.

Things I don't like:



Not knowing what is happening

Not understanding when things change

Being made to do the same thing for a long time – my attention span is about 5 minutes

How I communicate/express myself:



Vocalisations: The tone and pitch of my vocalisations can vary which can help to understand what I'm trying to say: E.g. High pitched, loud vocalisations often means 'yes' or is used as a social greeting or when I am excited

Makaton signs: ** Please see the list and pictures at the end **

Pointing: e.g. I will point to what I am talking about

Please also read my vocabulary in the table below.

Vision: I need to wear my glasses all the time!

Hearing: no reported issues. I can hear my staff at home if they call me from downstairs.

What I understand:

- I understand 1 key word at once and sometimes 2.
- e.g. 'do you want a drink?'
- e.g. 'take your bag upstairs'



I use tone of voice to help me understand what people are saying. So please keep your tone of voice consistent with your message. Also please don't use a harsh tone of voice unless it is necessary.

- I can understand photos and symbols relating to objects that I am familiar with.

Please help me to communicate by....



- Say my name before you start talking to make sure I'm focused on you. You can also touch my arm if you need to.
- I understand best when you use **short sentences with 1 or 2 key words** in them. 'Stephen it's time for dinner'. Emphasise the key word
- Use **everyday easy words** and talk about things in the 'here and now'.
- To help me understand what you are saying. Use **visual things** as well as talking. e.g. use 1 or 2 Makaton signs or gestures each sentence (please see my list of Makaton signs below)
 - point to or hold up **objects** that relate to what you are talking about
 - use colour photos (amend as needed after symbolic assessment)
 - use my **visual timetable** when talking to me about my sessions and activities.
 - demonstrate** what you are asking me to do

I use routines and knowledge of the real world to help me understand what people are saying. E.g. at home when I am told 'Take your plate and cup to the kitchen' I don't really need to understand the words or after a meal I'm always expected to take my plate and cup to the kitchen!

- So, I may appear to understand more than I do. But if something is unusual and not part of my routine you will need to take great care to explain it to me in a way I understand.
- To build a conversation with me: talk about things that are happening now – comment on what I am doing or things around us.
- Tell me about events **just before** they are going to happen
- Wait 5 seconds to give me time to answer you
- Give me **choices of 2 real items** to choose from.

My Passport



About Me

1. About me
2. Things you need to know,
3. My home
4. People in my life
- 5-6. My likes
- 7-8. My dislikes
9. What I can do myself



My health

11. My Health Needs
12. Daily routine
13. Personal Care
14. Eating and Drinking
15. How I move
- 16-17. Out and About
18. About my food hoarding



My Communication

19. Understanding
20. Expression
- 21-23. How I communicate
- 24-25. How to help me communicate
26. Contact

Add info about

- MCA's,
- pain profiles
- Transition