Children with Speech, Language and Communication difficulties may have difficulties with:

**Speech** - How something is said e.g. having clear and accurate speech sounds in words

**Expressive Language** - What is being said e.g. vocabulary, producing grammatical sentences, ability to tell stories out loud in the correct order

**Receptive Language** - A child’s understanding of language e.g. following instructions without clues like pointing or gestures, learning new words, understanding concepts like ‘in’, ‘on’ and ‘under’.

**Social Skills** - Ability to make and maintain friendships, take turns in activities and conversation, difficulties playing with others, poor eye contact and limited facial expressions.

**Attention and Listening** - Difficulties listening and ‘doing’ at the same time, difficulties concentrating, easily distracted by sound or light and behavioural difficulties.

The Language Pyramid

The Language Pyramid demonstrates the areas Speech and Language Therapists work on with children.

It is important for children to have well-developed attention and listening skills and social interaction and play skills to develop language and speech. Having solid skills at the bottom of the language pyramid helps children to develop the skills at the top.

Ways to help develop your child’s Speech and Language:

- **Switch off the TV!** Research tells us that children cannot develop language through watching television alone. Speaking against background noise can also mean that your child is not hearing you clearly and will find it more difficult to learn words and how to say them.

- **Don’t ask children to repeat back what you are saying or the way you are saying it.** Instead, comment on what your child is doing and expand on what your child says (e.g. Child says: “dog” Adult: “yes it’s a big, brown dog”) or model the correct way of saying a word in the next sentence.

- **Follow your child’s lead!** Children learn best when they are enjoying and engaged in what they are doing.

- **Read books and play games together – feed in lots of language as you do this by commenting on what you are doing.**

- **Give your child a running commentary of what you are doing together.** This will help your child learn new words as they map the word you say to objects they can see.

- **Use lots of gesture to support your talking.** This will help support the child’s understanding of language.
The Hollington Strategic Alliance Speech and Language Therapist works in Churchwood Primary Academy on Tuesday and Wednesday.

If you have any concerns about your child’s speech and language development do not hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher or arrange a meeting with the staff at Churchwood Primary Academy and/or Beth Search (Speech and Language Therapist).

Telephone: 01424 851783

Fun Speech and Language Games

• **I Spy** - Play ‘I Spy with my little eye’ with your children. This helps children to learn how to identify the first sounds in words and develop vocabulary.

• **Colour what I say** - Draw simple pictures of everyday objects/words e.g. different animals. Ask the child to colour the picture you say. Make it harder by asking the child to colour two animals or use a specific colour!

• **Snap** - Snap helps children to develop an understanding of the concepts ‘same’ and ‘different’ and develop attention and listening skills.

• **Memory and Language Games** e.g. I went to the zoo and I saw/I went to the supermarket and I bought/I went to the seaside and I saw... Each time the child has a turn they have to remember all the words that have been said before and then add their...