

Speech & Language Support for Vulnerable Young People



Elklan courses are externally quality assured and accredited through OCN London

A course for those of you working with vulnerable young people in a variety of contexts who have speech, language and communication needs which can contribute to dysregulated behaviour.



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Speech & Language Support for Vulnerable Young People

A practical training course for those of you teaching or supporting vulnerable young people who have communication challenges and social and emotional needs. It will help you identify those with undiagnosed speech and language needs and provide essential strategies to help you to help them. This evidence based course provides you with theoretical knowledge and an abundance of practical skills and ideas to support pupils who are living or being educated in vulnerable contexts such as PRUs and youth justice institutions. It uses interactive teaching methods, practical activities, videos and group discussion to engage you and support your learning. The course consists of 8 weekly sessions each lasting two hours and can be run as a 3 day intensive programme.

What does this course teach?

1. What is communication?

- Identify the processes involved in communication.
- Demonstrate the wide range of communication problems young people can exhibit.
- Explore communication strategies to help diminish dysregulated behaviour.

2. Non-verbal communication, listening & attention

- Explore non-verbal communication
- Improve listening skills
- Consider attention levels and the impact this has on learning.

3. Understanding spoken language

- Reflect on why understanding spoken language might be difficult
- Modify language to help the listener
- Use visual schedules and practice schedules
- Consider other issues such as non-literal language and bilingualism.

4. Developing verbal reasoning

- Explore the types of questions and demands made on the listener
- Learn how to adapt questions to develop a young person's reasoning skills.

5. Strategies to develop vocabulary

- Identify the challenges of vocabulary development.
- Promote the understanding of words.

6. Encouraging expressive language & communication

- Discuss strategies to support expressive language
- Identify the barriers to talking.

7. Promoting effective social communication skills

- Explore social communication skills and appropriate support strategies
- Promote the language of emotions
- Use Comic Strip Conversations to understand and manage social situations more effectively.

8. Developing a communication plan (linking the course together)

- Use knowledge gained from the course to prepare a Communication Plan which identifies a young person's communication achievements and challenges, then facilitates the planning of appropriate support strategies.

“ This course has been excellent. The tutor has excellent skills and knowledge and delivers it perfectly. The course has been beneficial and I really think that the course should be delivered to tutors within the prisons as this would benefit them and the YP they teach. ”

