

Communication Support for 0-25s with Complex Needs



Elklan courses are externally quality assured and accredited through OCN London

A course for those of you working with pupils with profound and multiple learning needs. It will empower you to develop the communication skills of pupils who need support to develop their communication whatever their starting point.



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Communication Support for 0-25s with Complex Needs

This evidence based course provides you with theoretical knowledge and an abundance of practical skills and ideas to support pupils with profound and multiple learning needs. The course 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. It may also be taught over 3 days or through blended e-learning. E-learning sessions alone which are non-accredited and don't involve webinar support are also available.

What does this course teach?

1. What is communication?

- Discuss the development of pre-intentional to intentional communication
- Identify the stage of communication at which a pupil is functioning.

2. Creating a communication friendly setting

- Consider issues that make a setting communication friendly for pupils with complex needs and PMLD
- Reflect on best practice in terms of using Objects of Reference.

3. Pre-intentional communication

- Recognise pre-intentional communication of pupils with complex needs and PMLD
- Explore appropriate adult-pupil interaction at a pre-intentional stage
- Know how to encourage play/exploratory learning and thinking skills at this level.

4. Anticipating the event

- Recognise when a pupil can anticipate events and facilitate their understanding through the planning of clear routines
- Know about the development and importance of Joint Attention
- Know how to encourage play/exploratory learning and thinking skills at this level.

5. Intentional communication

- Explore an assessment of Means, Reasons and Opportunities to communicate
- Know how to encourage intentional communication and develop choice making skills.

6. The link between play/exploratory learning & language

- Learn about the development of symbolic understanding and how this underpins the development of language
- Discuss enabling pupils of all ages to access appropriate play/exploratory learning opportunities.

7. Total communication

- Explore the nature of 'Total Communication'
- Reflect on best practice in terms of using signs and symbols
- Discuss the structure and use of Communication Passports to share key information to support a pupil
- Know how to encourage pupils to use their communication skills to convey different types of messages
- Raise awareness of the importance of non-verbal communication.

8. Linking it all together

- Work in small groups to devise a poster that summarises the learning gained throughout the course.

“ Very interesting and informative. The course has been very valuable in helping me to support the pupils I work with more effectively and meet their individual needs. The tutors were excellent, everything was very well presented. ”

