



Buddy Chat Information for Parents

Did you know that.....

More than 10% of children have Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and that these children are more likely to experience challenges forming friendships and feeling included in school.

To help children with SLCN in our school be accepted, supported and included, your child's class has been involved in the **Buddy Chat programme**.

Buddy Chat is a co-designed children's communication project which aims to raise awareness of SLCN among children in Northern Ireland schools in the six most common communication differences.

Your child's class will complete 2 interactive video lessons to help teach them:

- What communication is and how it happens.
- How some children communicate differently or find communication tricky.
- How we can be kind and caring communicators in school and at home.

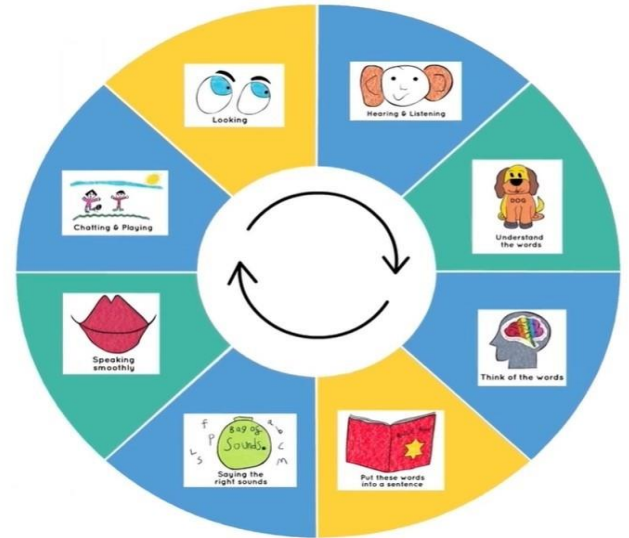
The class will be introduced to 2 sets of children from Northern Ireland who communicate differently.

The **2 areas** of communication difference your child's class will be learning about are:

- Speech sound disorder / unclear speech
- Autism
- Stammering
- Deaf
- Cleft lip & palate / physical disability
- Developmental Language Disorder

You may wish to ask your child about what they learnt during these lessons and see if they can share ideas about how to help those who communicate differently. The pictures below are used as part of the lessons and might help spark some conversation.

The **Communication Wheel** is used to explain all the parts involved in communication. Sometimes, a person may find parts of the wheel tricky, or they may use them differently.



The Buddy Chat High 5!

1. See and notice
2. Slow down and check
3. Use actions
4. Take turns and wait
5. Ask for help

The **Buddy Chat High 5** are strategies we can all use to be kind, caring communicators. These are useful tips which can help people of all ages with a range of communication needs, for example, stroke, learning disability and dementia.

If you want to learn more about communication and how to help those who have communication needs, **free online training** is available. It takes around one hour and can be done in short chunks.

[Communication Access UK - Inclusive communication for all \(communication-access.co.uk\)](http://communication-access.co.uk)

More information about a variety of communication differences can be found using the following links -

www.rcslt.org	www.autismni.org
www.stamma.org	www.autism.org.uk
www.actionforstammeringchildren.org	www.radld.org
www.ndcs.org.uk	www.naplic.org.uk
www.speechandlanguage.org.uk	www.clapa.com
https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/language-and-communication/sign-language/learning-bsl/learn-to-fingerspell/	