

# What is Speech and Language therapy?



## Speech and Language Therapy at the iMap Centre

Speech and Language Therapy is provided to iMap Centre service users, incorporating a holistic, total communication approach to support their individual communication needs.

This includes:

- Baseline and ongoing assessment
- Target setting using the SCERTS framework
- Focussed individual and group therapy sessions
- Advice and support as part of the multidisciplinary team
- Contribution to review meetings
- Parental home visits, training and support
- Supporting transition to adult services or further educational placements
- Staff training and support

Speech and Language Therapy is provided to service users in a wide range of sessions including:

- Individual sessions
- Groups sessions
- Class based support and observations
- Community support
- Work experience
- Evening and holiday sessions

## Communication approaches at iMap

iMap incorporates a wide range of communication approaches to meet the individual needs of every young person.

These include:

### Intensive Interaction

Intensive Interaction is an approach to teach the fundamentals of communication to children and adults who have learning difficulties and/or autism, in a relaxed and client led manner.

### Traffic Lights

The Traffic Light system used at iMap supports service users to gain a concrete perspective of timing, to transition between activities and to predict when change is likely to occur.

### Go

The Go strategy encourages service users to develop self regulation of their arousal levels. It supports children and adults to recognise when they need to take a break and enables them to communicate this to others in an appropriate manner.

### Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)

PECS is an approach designed to develop functional communication skills using visual systems. It focuses on meaningful communication that is initiated by the service user rather than dependant on prompts from another person, with spontaneous communication being the overall goal. Service users are taught and encouraged to exchange symbols to communicate their wants, needs and opinions.

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## Social Stories

Social Stories are used to teach social skills and appropriate behaviours to people with autism and related disabilities. Social stories provide an individual with accurate information about those situations that he/she may find difficult or confusing. The situation is described in detail and focus is given to a few key points. The goal of the story is to increase the individual's understanding of the situation that they are in, and possibly suggest more appropriate responses that can reduce anxiety and help them to feel more comfortable.

## Makaton

Makaton is a language programme that teaches communication and language skills through a combination of speech, signs and symbols. Makaton supports memory and understanding of language as well as another form of expressive language to those people who have difficulty expressing themselves verbally.



## individuals **Making autism positive – The iMap Approach**

iMap's person centred care planning approach takes careful consideration of the requirements of each service user's needs as identified within the social work assessment, and any other relevant assessment that identifies the care, support and therapeutic needs of a service user. This enables iMap to provide enhanced opportunities for children and adults to improve communication and relationships, continually develop independence skills and assist people to lead fulfilling lives and achieve the best possible outcomes.

iMap promotes an Intensive Interactive approach, so that all staff are trained and familiar with different techniques for working successfully with complex learners. We emphasise communication and empathy for service users and by drawing on SCERTS, PECS and Intensive Interactions staff within all of our supported living and residential care environments are able to provide structure, calmness and clarity to each service user to reduce their anxiety and promote their learning and development.

iMap provides:

- Intensive Interaction focused support to service users
- A SCERTS® informed approach to assist service users to build competence in Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support
- A total communication approach to speech and language therapy, including use of PECS, Makaton and social stories
- Music therapy
- Art therapy
- Multi-sensory experiences
- Behavioural support programme, informed by PROACT-SCIPr-UK® behavioural support techniques
- In house medical support and health liaison.

**Any further enquiries please contact us on 01606 301 514  
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