



Network Newsletter

Issue 17 Autumn 1 2023

suffolktan@westbourne.atrust.org.uk @SuffolkTan

www.suffolktanetwork.co.uk

Coordinator's Comments

Make Sure Your Network Works for You

As we enter the fourth year of the Suffolk TA Network, I am as enthusiastic, passionate and determined as ever to develop our offer to make it as relevant and useful as possible for our growing membership across Suffolk. In order to achieve this aim, I need your input and ideas.

The Suffolk TA Network was launched with the vision of developing a professional network led by TAs for TAs. Our purpose is to support you in your practice through a range of opportunities to engage in training, access information and signposting to other relevant services and liaise with other teaching assistants to share ideas, strategies and resources.

Feedback from our members is essential to allow us to continue to meet your needs and those of the pupils you work with, so please email me with any ideas and we will see what we can do abigail.joachim@atrust.org.uk.



Join Us

If you are not already a member of the Suffolk TA Network, please join via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/jPbuADRUuK>

(Please note the change in link from last year)

Simply click on this link or copy it into the URL bar on your browser and complete the Microsoft Forms document.

You will then receive the half-termly newsletter and other correspondence.

In this issue...

[Page 2](#) – First Look – Suffolk TA Network Annual Conference 2023-24

[Page 3](#) – Communication & Interaction Specialist Network

[Page 4](#) – Dyslexia Specialist Network

[Page 5](#) – Speech, Language & Communication Training

[Page 6](#) – Secondary Speech, Language & Communication Meetings

[Page 7](#) – Suffolk County Council Inclusion Support Line



First Look - Suffolk TA Network Annual Conference 2023-24

On Monday 2nd October, we welcomed 150 teaching assistants from across Suffolk to the second annual Suffolk TA Network conference at Trinity Park Conference in Ipswich. The inspirational speakers offered a wealth of knowledge and strategies on a range of topics, including 'strategies for supporting anxiety', 'the power of welcome' and 'practical ideas for using visuals'.

It was wonderful to see so many educational professionals networking, connecting and sharing ideas and strategies. More detailed feedback from the conference will follow soon, but these quotes and photos will give you a taster of the day.

"feeling supported"

"relevant and inclusive to SEND"

"meeting other TAs"

"networking and upskilling"

"sharing ideas and information"

"networking with facilitators/trainers"

"very informative"





Communication & Interaction Specialist Network

We are very excited to continue working with the [Suffolk County Council Communication & Interaction \(C&I\) service](#) to offer a specialist networking opportunity for teaching assistants who have a particular interest in communication & interaction needs, and supporting children and young people with a diagnosis or traits of autism including:

- Difficulties with social communication and making or maintaining friendships
- Understanding and regulating emotions
- Difficulties around inflexible thinking
- Difficulties communicating effectively with others

Each half-termly session will have an overall theme, but with a flexible approach to meet your needs and will be supported by a specialist from the C&I service.

The first half of each session will be dedicated to theme-specific input, including resource recommendations, updates, strategies, signposting to training etc.

The second half will then be available for professional networking, where you can share strategies and ideas with colleagues from other schools in Suffolk.

Date	Time	Phase	Proposed Theme	Venue
Thursday 12 th October 2023	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Verbal and non-verbal ways to communicate emotions	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 30 th November 2023	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Meltdowns/shutdowns	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 1 st February 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Anxiety	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 21 st March 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Transitions and managing change	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 2 nd May 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Autism and girls	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 20 th June 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Sensory needs	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		

To join this specialist network and book a place on the sessions above, please email abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk.



Dyslexia Specialist Network

We are very excited to continue working with the [Suffolk County Council Specific Learning Difficulties \(SpLD\) service](#) to offer a specialist networking opportunity for teaching assistants who have a particular interest in dyslexia.

Each half-termly session will have an overall theme, but with a flexible approach to meet your needs and will be supported by a SpLD specialist teacher.

The first half of each session will be dedicated to theme-specific input, including resource recommendations, updates, strategies, signposting to training etc.

The second half will then be available for professional networking, where you can share strategies and ideas with colleagues from other schools in Suffolk.

Date	Time	Phase	Proposed Theme	Venue
Wednesday 11 th October 2023	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Screening and assessing needs	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 29 th November 2023	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Dyscalculia	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 31 st January 2024	9.30-11.00	Secondary	Study skills and exam arrangements	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-15.00	Primary		
Wednesday 20 th March 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Writing and ways of recording	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 1 st May 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Creating an SpLD-friendly learning environment	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 19 th June 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Co-occurring visual difficulties	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		

To join this specialist network and book a place on the sessions above, please email abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk.

FREE CPD OPPORTUNITY



CPD ENQUIRIES AND BOOKING

Amy.Webb@suffolk.gov.uk

- Are you a TA working in an educational setting in Suffolk?
- Do you want to develop your existing knowledge and skills around Speech, Language and Communication?
- Would you like to explore strategies for supporting children and young people with communication difficulties?
- How would you like the opportunity to join other TAs across Suffolk?
- Could you take your skills back to your setting and share them with others?

NHS Speech and Language Therapy and Education Outreach SLCN would like to offer you six VIRTUAL sessions of CPD across the academic year 2023-2024. This training is a collaboration with the Suffolk TA Network and is absolutely free of charge. Sessions will be delivered via Microsoft Teams. To book your place contact Amy.Webb@suffolk.gov.uk

Session 1. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday September 25 th 2023	What do we mean by Speech, Language and Communication? This will also provide an overview of the 5 further sessions.
Session 2. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday December 4 th 2023	Social Communication
Session 3. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday February 5 th 2024	Receptive Language
Session 4. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday March 18 th 2024	Expressive Language
Session 5. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday May 13 th 2024	Speech Production and Phonological Awareness
Session 6. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday July 1 st 2024	Vocabulary, including the language of emotions and feelings

Some feedback from previous training:

I would like to say thank you all for your time and effort in delivering a brilliant online course full of information and support.

I've learnt lots of different things. I'm going to take lots away from all of the sessions thank you all very much.

All the slides, input, activities much appreciated. Thank you all.

Free Secondary SLCN ½ Termly Group Meeting over TEAMs



Did you know ...

The most common type of need for all pupils at SEN support, is **speech, language and communication needs?**

(Special Educational Needs In England, DfE, 2023)

This is a new secondary SLCN discussion / information sharing network from SES SLCN teachers.

We'll be looking at aspects of SLCN provision and strategies in secondary schools

It's for secondary SENDCOs and secondary SLCN TAs

Tuesdays, half termly, via TEAMs 3.45pm- 4.30pm

Date	Topics covered
Tuesday 3rd October 2023	SLCN screening and assessment tools for secondary age pupils
Tuesday 28 th November 2023	4 Core SLCN strategies for classroom teachers
Tuesday 30 th January 2024	Links between language and behaviour.
Tuesday 19 th March 2024	Language for Behaviour and Emotions Intervention
Tuesday 14 th May 2024	DLD (Developmental Language Disorder)
Tuesday 25 th June 2024	Developing verbal reasoning skills

For a TEAMs invite, please [Click Here to Book!](#)



Inclusion Support Line

Open to education setting staff, the [Inclusion Support Line](#) is open Mondays to Fridays, 9am - 5pm.

It is designed for general enquiries or 'quick questions' and not for in-depth individual pupil discussion. For example, you may have a question around systems, processes, school-based interventions, the Graduated Response, etc.

The support line can be reached on **01473 265502**.

Resource Review

Have you read a good book lately that has influenced your work in school? Do you listen to a really great educational Podcast and think other TAs would love it too? Do you regularly find free resources on a certain website that helps you support pupils in lessons?

If so, I would love to hear from you. I would simply need a short review, a picture of the resource (or even better, you with the resource) and a rating out of 10 for content, accessibility and an overall score.

If you have found a good resource lately and want to shout about it, please get in touch suffolktan@westbourne.attrust.org.uk.

Disclaimer

Please note that the Suffolk TA Network does not endorse or sponsor the views or products of other authors contained in this newsletter or receive any financial benefit from them. The Suffolk TA Network cannot, in any way whatsoever, be responsible for your use of the information contained in or linked from these articles and assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions in the content of the articles. The information contained in this newsletter is provided on an "as is" basis with no guarantees of completeness, accuracy, usefulness or timeliness.



Growing out of collaboration and partnership