



## Network Newsletter

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[suffolktan@westbourne.atrust.org.uk](mailto:suffolktan@westbourne.atrust.org.uk) @SuffolkTan

[www.suffolktanetwork.co.uk](http://www.suffolktanetwork.co.uk)

## Coordinator's Comments

### Conference Impact

As the Suffolk TA Network annual conference impact report 2023 is published on our website [www.suffolktanetwork.co.uk](http://www.suffolktanetwork.co.uk), I wanted to share some reflections about how you have been using the understanding, knowledge and strategies you have gained to support pupils across Suffolk.

***"I couldn't have done half of this without having attended the conference. I felt empowered and confident."***

***"I used some strategies and links from the TA conference which were really valuable."***

I am always delighted to hear how accessing the Suffolk TA Network training and networking offer is having a positive impact for learners. Please continue to share your stories and keep an eye out for details of the next conference coming soon.



### 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** – Specialist Education Unit (SEU) Network **Page 3** – Signs of Safety, Trauma-informed & Restorative Practice Training & Conference Impact Report **Pages 4 & 5** – Suffolk Inclusion Toolkit TA Training **Page 6** – Personalised Stories to Support Social Understanding & Supporting pupils to reflect and understand other people's point of view through drawing training **Page 7** – NCFE Free CPD TA Event Early Brain Development **Pages 8 & 9** – C&I and Dyslexia Specialist Networks **Page 10** - Speech, Language & Communication Training **Page 11** – Secondary Speech, Language & Communication Meetings **Pages 12 & 13** - ELKLAN Speech and Language Support for 11 – 16s training **Page 14** – Inclusion Support Line & Resource Review



# Suffolk SEU Staff Networking Group



- Do you work for a Specialist Unit (SEU) in a Suffolk school?
- Would you like the opportunity to network with staff from other SEUs?

If the answer to these questions is 'yes', we invite you to join the Suffolk SEU Staff Networking Group to share your experiences and ideas with colleagues from across the county.

We have listened to feedback and have moved the network sessions from Thursdays to Tuesdays and have created a mixture of remote and face-to-face opportunities.

~~Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 – 15.30-16.30 – via TEAMS~~

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 15.45-16.45 – face-to-face at Sidegate Primary School, Sidegate Lane, Ipswich, IP4 4JD**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 15.30-16.30 – via TEAMS**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 – 15.45-16.45 – face-to-face – location TBC**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 – 15.30-16.30 – via TEAMS**

All sessions are open to teachers and teaching assistants and refreshments will be provided at face-to-face sessions. There will be the opportunity to attend face-to-face sessions remotely via TEAMS, if needed.

To book a place at any of these sessions, please email [abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk](mailto:abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk)

# Free Training Opportunity



**SOS+ plus brings together Signs of Safety, Trauma Informed and Restorative values and practices**  
**The approach provides:**

- ✓ A set of key principles that we aspire to use
- ✓ An overarching comprehensive framework for conversation, assessment, thinking and analysis
- ✓ Practices to support working WITH people and others who are important to them

**With the aim to:**

- ✓ Realise and acknowledge that peoples lived experiences play a part in how they respond, engage and function.
- ✓ Respond in a way to support recovery and restore functioning.
- ✓ Apply a solution-oriented approach to move towards agreed safe solutions.



We would like to invite you to a series of 4 Free Workshops to gain an understanding of the tools and techniques associated with the approach.

Session 1	Introduction to SOS+	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	13:30 – 14:30
			16:30 – 17:30
Session 2	Applying a Trauma Informed Lens	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	13:30 – 14:30
			16:30 – 17:30
Session 3	Restorative Practices for working with people	Monday 11 March 2024	13:30 – 14:30
			16:30 – 17:30
Session 4	Signs of Safety Framework Tool	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	13:30 – 14:30
			16:30 – 17:30

Book on these workshops at: [suffolkcpd.co.uk](http://suffolkcpd.co.uk)

SOS+ for Suffolk TA Network



## Suffolk TA Network Annual Conference Impact Report 2023

Following the second successful Suffolk TA Network annual conference, we are delighted to announce that the impact report is now available on our website [www.suffolktanetwork.co.uk](http://www.suffolktanetwork.co.uk).





# Suffolk Inclusion Toolkit TA Training



Essential SENCO Toolkit - Judith Carter



Judith Carter is a registered Educational Psychologist (EP,) Author and Director of Willow Tree Learning. She has worked as a Senior Specialist EP (Inclusion & Autism) in Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk, and was a Senior Adviser for Inclusion & SEN-D working in school improvement. She trained as an Ofsted inspector and is a Tutor on the National Award for SEN Co-ordination working with Eastern Partnership.

Judith is the author of “SEND Assessment: A strengths-based Framework for Learners with SEND” and “SEND Intervention: Planning Provision with Purpose” both published by Routledge Speechmark as part of the Essential SENCO Toolkit series. Judith hosts the Essential SENCO Network and provides bespoke training on SEND. She believes passionately in inclusion and education for all and works directly with Staff, children, young people and their families to promote participation and learning.

The Suffolk Inclusion Toolkit brings together a suite of assessment and intervention tools to support education setting staff to deliver a graduated approach to meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND. Tools include Valuing SEND, the Essential SENCO toolkit, and the Educational Psychology Analysis of Additional Needs Tool (AANT).

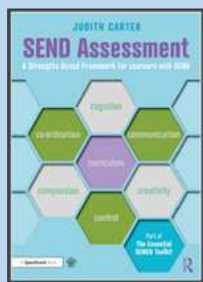
SENDCos across Suffolk have been introduced to the work of Judith Carter through the Suffolk County Council Essential SENCO Toolkit training sessions. To support the embedding of this toolkit in Suffolk schools, Judith Carter will be delivering a [series of follow-on sessions over the spring and summer terms](#), which you are also very welcome to attend, please do join them. Booking arrangements will be sent out to members once they are confirmed.

The Suffolk TA Network is working with Suffolk County Council and Judith Carter to bring you two sessions specific to pupil-facing support staff to develop your awareness and understanding of the Essential SENCO Toolkit.

Please see **page 5** for full details of these sessions, which will be delivered online, and for information about expressing an interest in attending.

## **Session one – An introduction to the 7 Cs**

The 7 Cs Learning Portfolio is a language of SEND assessment. It can be used to identify strengths and areas for development and help to plan SEN Support for those identified as requiring it. TAs will be introduced to the 7 Cs Learning Portfolio and its strengths-based approach and have time to consider how this can be integrated into their work with children and young people.



**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 13.30-14.30 or Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 16.30-17.30**

## **Session two – The 4 Functions of Learning Support**

The 4 functions of learning support is a framework to aid the deployment of TA time. TAs make a valuable contribution to teaching and learning and offer ongoing support for learners with SEND but sometimes this is defined as 'helping,' which does not in itself capture the significance of the role. Instead, defining TA time as mediation, reinforcement of a skill or learning behaviour, assessment or intervention enables greater clarity and accountability of impact. TAs will be introduced to the 4 functions and have time to reflect on the relevance to their role.



**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 13.30-14.30 or Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 16.30-17.30**

Please register your interest by emailing

[abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk](mailto:abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk)



### Training Opportunity

**Personalised Stories to Support Social Understanding & Supporting pupils to reflect and understand other people's point of view through drawing**

*“An opportunity to learn more about strategies for supporting social understanding and learning about different points of view, such as creating personalised stories and having conversations through drawing.”*

The session will be delivered online and will be repeated to give you an opportunity to attend at a convenient time:

**Monday 12th February – 13.00 – 14.30 or 16.00 – 17.30**

Both sessions will follow this format:

40 minutes - Personalised Stories to Support Social Understanding

**5 min comfort break**

40 minutes - Supporting pupils to reflect and understand other people's point of view through drawing

**To register to attend either session, please email [abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk](mailto:abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk) with your name and work email address, which I will then email to the provider at Suffolk County Council SES, who will be setting up the online sessions and delivering the course.**

**Please email your details by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to secure a place.**

NCFE are pleased to announce another **Free CPD TA Event on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2024** at 5-6pm. Our focus for the event will be on early brain development.

Ella Lloyd Newman is the Research Lead on the SEEN (Secondary Education around Early Neurodevelopment) programme focused on teaching early brain development.



Secondary Education around Early Neurodevelopment is in partnership with Kindred Squared, SEEN is a research project to develop and pilot curriculum for Key Stage 3 pupils. It aims to embed the key principles of early child development and neuroscience for young people. Their aim is to develop a community-wide understanding of the neuroscience that underpins how caregivers' behaviour contributes to children's future outcomes.

Ella has worked on the SEEN project in its pilot phase at the University of Oxford and is now implementing the roll out of the SEEN curriculum to schools nationwide. She has a background in neuroscience and experimental psychology with a focus on neurodevelopment, memory, and mental health. She has worked in both academic and clinical research at the University of Oxford, University of Bristol and in the NHS. Within the NHS, Ella has worked clinically in maternity services, where she engaged with families about the importance of brain development in the early years.

We will also be joined by Miranda Baxter, Deputy Director of Families as part of Campaign for Learning here at NCFE. She will be sharing details around parents as partners in supporting children's development.

Please register for the TA event here: [Webinar registration](#) | [Microsoft Teams](#)

Any other questions please contact:

Janet King, Sector Manager Education and Early Years [janetking@ncfe.org.uk](mailto:janetking@ncfe.org.uk)

Angie Rogers, Subject Chair Education and Early Years [angierogers@ncfe.org.uk](mailto:angierogers@ncfe.org.uk)



# 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Meltdowns/shutdowns	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Anxiety	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Transitions and managing change	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Autism and girls	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

**\* Please note the changes to the theme order for the next three sessions. This is due to staff availability and will also mean that a Specialist Teacher will not be present at the January sessions.**

Date	Time	Phase	Proposed Theme	Venue
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Screening and assessing needs	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Dyscalculia	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	9.30-11.00	Secondary	Creating an SpLD-friendly learning environment*	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-15.00	Primary		
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Study skills and exam arrangements*	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Writing and ways of recording*	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk).

# FREE CPD OPPORTUNITY



## CPD ENQUIRIES AND BOOKING

[Amy.Webb@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Amy.Webb@suffolk.gov.uk)**

Session 1. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday September 25 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Social Communication
Session 3. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday February 5 <sup>th</sup> 2024	Receptive Language
Session 4. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday March 18 <sup>th</sup> 2024	Expressive Language
Session 5. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday May 13 <sup>th</sup> 2024	Speech Production and Phonological Awareness
Session 6. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday July 1 <sup>st</sup> 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
<del>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023</del>	<del>SLCN screening and assessment tools for secondary age pupils</del>
<del>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023</del>	<del>4 Core SLCN strategies for classroom teachers</del>
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Links between language and behaviour.
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Language for Behaviour and Emotions Intervention
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	DLD (Developmental Language Disorder)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Developing verbal reasoning skills

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



## **ELKLAN** Speech and Language Support for 11 – 16s

**Suffolk's Specialist Education Services are pleased to be able to offer this popular course**

**Essential for anyone teaching or supporting children with speech, language and communication needs in secondary schools or specialist units**

**An externally accredited course which will equip you with innovative tools and methods to enhance children's learning in the classroom and promotes quality first teaching.**

### **Course details**

**The course is delivered over ten weekly sessions:**

- 1. WHAT IS COMMUNICATION?**
- 2. INTERACTION, LISTENING, ATTENTION**
- 3. MEMORY AND LEARNING**
- 4. MEMORY (CONT..) AND UNDERSTANDING SPOKEN LANGUAGE**
- 5. UNDERSTANDING ABSTRACT LANGUAGE**
- 6. PROMOTING VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT**
- 7. EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE SKILLS**
- 8. PROMOTING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL SKILLS**
- 9. THE LINK BETWEEN SPEECH, LANGUAGE, READING AND SPELLING**
- 10. LINKING IT ALL TOGETHER**

**The course is delivered by experienced speech and language therapists and accredited ELKLAN tutors.**

**An initial Meet and Greet session will take place on **Friday Feb 16th, 2024, 2.30 - 3.00 pm**, please can you attend with your line manager. followed by ten sessions on the following dates:**

I have really enjoyed this course. It has been one of the most knowledgeable courses that I have ever been on. It has helped me in my everyday work. - Tara G

- ❖ Thursday, Feb 29th
- ❖ Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Thursday, March 14th
- ❖ Thursday, March 21st
- ❖ Thursday, March 28th
- ❖ Thursday, April 18th
- ❖ Thursday, April 25th
- ❖ Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>
- ❖ Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

All sessions will be 09.30 – 11.30 am

The taught sessions will be delivered via Teams. Learners will need access to a laptop or other device with video and audio capacity. A phone will not be suitable.

I found the course excellent. It was very interesting from start to finish. The topics covered were very useful to me in the classroom. The pupils really benefited from all that I had learnt. - Diana J

**The cost of the 10-week course is £350.00. This includes marking assignments and individual feedback. The course booklet is included in the cost.**

To speak to the course tutors, please contact Sam or Lucy:

Sam Wilkins [Samantha.Wilkins@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Samantha.Wilkins@suffolk.gov.uk)

Lucy Beven [Lucy.Beven@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Lucy.Beven@suffolk.gov.uk)

**Book your place through Suffolk CPD online using the following link:**

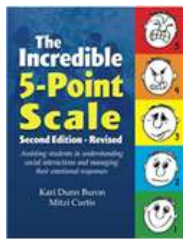
[SES CPD: Eiklan \(Secondary Schools\) Booking Form](#)

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



At the Suffolk TA Network annual conference on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, three lucky members walked away with a spot prize, which included 'The Incredible 5-Point Scale, Second Edition Revised' by Kari Dunn Buron and Mitzi Curtis. This book is designed for "assisting students in understanding social interactions and managing their emotional responses". We would love to hear from our winners about how you are using this resource in your setting.

You may also find the free resources at <https://www.5pointscale.com/> helpful.

If you have found a good resource lately and want to shout about it, please get in touch [suffolkta@westbourne.attrust.org.uk](mailto:suffolkta@westbourne.attrust.org.uk).

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