



Network Newsletter

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Coordinator's Comments

Your Network – Have your say...

It is that time of the year again when I begin to plan the Suffolk TA Network programme for next year.

When the network was established, it was designed 'by TAs for TAs' and, over the years, this has not changed. The Suffolk TA Network supports and promotes the work of pupil-facing support staff across the county and is your network, designed to meet your professional development needs and the needs of the pupils you support.

Please contribute to the planning for 2024/25 and make sure the network works for you:

Network Impact Survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/nkYBHXB6ta> (see page 2)

Specialist Network Survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/EG9TC6N2CC> (see page 5)



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 – Suffolk TA Network Impact & Annual Conference

Page 3 – Specialist Education Unit (SEU) Network

Pages 4 & 5 – Suffolk Inclusion Toolkit TA Training Specialist Education Unit (SEU) Network

Pages 5-7 – Specialist Networks - C&I and Dyslexia + 2024/25 planning

Page 8 - Speech, Language & Communication Training

Page 9 – Secondary Speech, Language & Communication Meetings

Page 10 – Inclusion Support Line & Resource Review



Love your



Since the Suffolk TA Network launched in early 2021, we have continued to grow and now have a thriving membership of over 500 colleagues from over half the educational settings in Suffolk. Please continue to share the word about our professional network so all pupil-facing support staff in the county get the opportunity to benefit from membership.

I am constantly looking at ways I can develop and improve the Suffolk TA Network offer and am currently planning for the 2024/25 programme. Please contribute your ideas by completing this Impact Survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/nkYBHXB6ta>

#MembershipGoals

As we are coming to the end of another academic year, please can I remind you to let me know of any changes to your membership. If you are moving school, changing role or moving on in your career, please email me with any updates
abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk.

#SuffolkTANetwork

Suffolk TA Network Annual Conference 2024



Planning is well underway for the 2024 Suffolk TA Network Annual Conference. The conference offers a full day of professional development and networking and this year the theme is Dyslexia and Dyscalculia.

The 2024 conference will take place on Wednesday 16th October between 9.00 and 15.00 at Trinity Park Conference and Events Centre, Ipswich.

The programme is in the process of being finalised and I am so excited to be able to offer you such a range of brilliant session options.

Spaces are due to be advertised after the May half term holiday, so please keep an eye out for correspondence and speak to your line manager to secure your place.



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 21st November 2023 – 15.30-16.30 – via TEAMS~~

~~Tuesday 13th February 2024 – 15.45-16.45 – face-to-face at Sidegate Primary School, Sidegate Lane, Ipswich, IP4 4JD~~

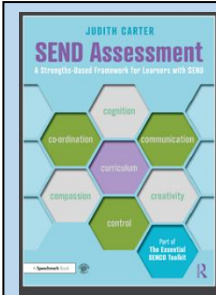
~~Tuesday 19th March 2024 – 15.30-16.30 – via TEAMS~~

Tuesday 21st May 2024 – 15.45-16.45 – face-to-face – location TBC

Tuesday 2nd 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.

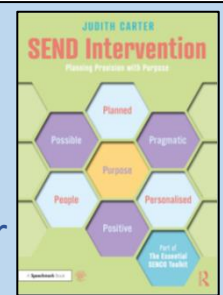
To book a place at any of these sessions, please email abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk



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.

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 20th May 13.30-14.30 or Wednesday 22nd May 16.30-17.30

Please register your interest by emailing

abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk

Specialist Networks

Our dyslexia and C&I networks allow you to connect and collaborate to share ideas, resources, and support. Each session is based on a theme and includes a specialist input to develop your skills and knowledge.

Here are some of the things our members have had to say about sessions:

“I found the session really enlightening.”

“I learnt so much and filled my notepad up with ideas and information I was given.”

“...it definitely renewed by confidence in being able to plan and deliver literacy interventions.”

Complete this short survey to help us to plan our specialist network programme for 2024/25 so that it meets your professional development needs and the needs of the pupils you support: <https://forms.office.com/e/EG9TC6N2CC>

See pages 6 & 7 for more details of this year's specialist networking offer.



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.

* 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 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	Creating an SpLD-friendly learning environment*	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-15.00	Primary		
Wednesday 20 th March 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Study skills and exam arrangements*	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 1 st May 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Writing and ways of recording*	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

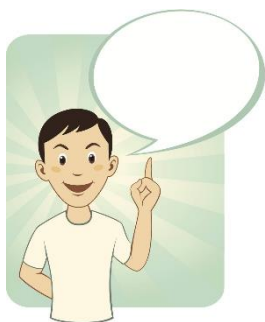
Some feedback from previous training:

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 28th November 2023	4 Core SLCN strategies for classroom teachers
Tuesday 30th January 2024	Links between language and behaviour.
Tuesday 19th 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

With the 2024 Suffolk TA Network Annual Conference fast approaching, it would be lovely to hear your recommendations for resources and books on this year's theme of dyslexia and dyscalculia.

Have you read a book or blog that has improved your understanding?

Have you listened to an interesting Podcast lately?

Is there a resource you use in school that you would really recommend?

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

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Growing out of collaboration and partnership