

# SEND News – Term 3 2021



Happy New Year to all,

Well, it feels a little like “here we go again”, doesn’t it? However, we’ve now all experienced lockdown and I hope that, like me, you at least know a little more what to expect even if the next six weeks plus seem daunting? The statistics behind the coronavirus are stark and we must all try our hardest to play our part. Hopefully, we can all return to normal soon with the onset of the vaccination programme. It will certainly benefit our learners with SEND to have more consistency and predictability in their lives. Please do contact the SENCO in your child’s school if you have concerns about your child’s provision during lockdown – we need to know if there are issues. Equally, should you not feel satisfied with the school’s response, please contact me on [fb@acorneducationtrust.com](mailto:fb@acorneducationtrust.com) – I would love to hear positive stories of how your child is getting on too!

With best wishes, Sue Fulbrook (SEND Director)

## Communication is the key...



One thing we can all do for our children at home during this time is to continue to develop their communication skills at all levels. Talk is so vital to all other learning and development. Here are some tips for encouraging talk at home:

- 1) Get their attention – use their name. Check they’ve understood – have them repeat back a request or instruction.
- 2) Vocabulary – learning and remembering words is key. Use labels, visuals and definitions depending on your child’s level of communication. Play with words – rhymes, games...
- 3) Build on what they know – share “talk” with a baby (let them respond), add another word to what a younger child has said, add a phrase for an older child and teach young people how to debate.
- 4) Talk about what children are interested in. Use open questions which need more than a “yes” or “no” answer.
- 5) Show children the right way to say something. It’s better to model something rather than correct the child.
- 6) Give children time. They need time to process what you’ve said and make an answer. Encourage through your facial expression.
- 7) Have conversations – as with all learning, children and young people need to practise talking with adults and peers.

## Signposting

The Local Authority is offering remote consultations via the Specialist SEN Service for families of children with SEND who are struggling at home during lockdown. Please contact your SENCO who will be able to refer to this service.

Storicise is a website which explains Coronavirus to children of different ages - <https://www.storicise.com/>  
<https://cosmickids.com/> - great for relaxing and mindful yoga type activities.

<https://www.thriveapproach.com/keeping-connected-during-and-after-lockdown/> - good advice for parents/carers here too.

