

Check for hearing loss

Hearing is critical to communication development.

Mild or fluctuating hearing loss can have a significant impact on learning and development.

A child or young person may have underlying speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) if you observe the following indicators:

- difficulty understanding and following instructions
- difficulty explaining what they want and need
- difficulty understanding and expressing their feelings and the emotions of others
- appear to ignore what they have been asked to do or do the wrong thing because they have misunderstood what is meant
- difficulties retelling situations, events and stories
- frequently responding to questions with short generic responses such as "I dunno".

Use [this communication checklist](#) (PDF, 304KB) to guide and gather further observations.

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