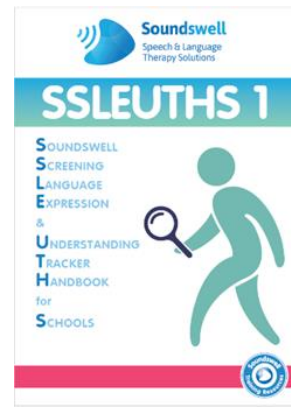




SSLEUTHS-1



Soundswell Screening Language Expression & Understanding Tracker Handbook for Schools

Although initially developed for work with pupils in specialist settings, **SSLEUTHS** has equal application for pupils with severe and complex needs who are being educated within a mainstream setting.

SSLEUTHS-1 is a practical toolkit to:

- Identify communication levels right from the very beginning
- Track the acquisition of skills
- Signpost the user to appropriate strategies and interventions to both consolidate gains and support progression

1. Introduction

SSLEUTHS-1 is a *communication pathway* designed to be used by school staff to help identify the best level of communication that matches the pupil's strengths. It is a working document that functions best when linked directly to the Speaking and Listening curriculum. It is **not** designed to be a series of standalone checklists that are used to check a pupil's progress once or twice a year.

The aim of SSLEUTHS-1 is to help the school staff team to know:

- what communication strategies are needed by individual pupils
- how to identify communication strengths to target for development
- when and what communication strategies to progress on to (next steps)
- what support is needed throughout the day to achieve functional communication.

2. Pupils who will benefit from SSLEUTHS-1

The pathway can be used with *any pupil* functioning below National Curriculum Level. Pupils at this level are likely to have significant communication and learning needs and be part of the school's SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) register.

Most, if not all pupils are also likely to have an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) to ensure their ongoing learning needs are appropriately supported.

Although some of the assessment/observation and teaching and learning resources included within SSLEUTHS-1 may be used for *targeted* pupils, they may also have universal application for **all** pupils functioning below national curriculum level 1.

Content

Part 1: Early Communicators (Levels 1 to 3) - covers most pupils working at a developmental age equivalent of approximately 0-12 months.

Part 2: Developing Communicators (Levels 4 and 5) - covers pupils working at a developmental age equivalent of between 12 & 60 months.

Part 3: Established Communicators (Levels 7 and 8) - covers pupils working at a developmental age equivalent of 3-5 years.

At each level, the adult is directed to 'next steps' for:

- additional observation/assessment tools
- teaching and learning resources.

SSLEUTHS 1 takes account of both *linear* and *lateral* progression. It identifies what a child *can* do now and where to go next. Thus providing:

- accurate observations and assessments
- appropriately targeted interventions
- a roadmap for the way forward
- support for parents so that they can see the tiny steps their child might make

The SSLEUTHS materials have been piloted in both special and mainstream schools and amendments made based on user feedback. Here is a flavour of what participants said:

This is really helpful for me as a therapist (SALT)
An excellent resource – especially with access to the resources online. Thank you, I enjoyed it! (teacher)
This will provide an increased insight into the rationale behind the advice I give (SALT)
I have found this so useful – it has been the missing link to inform our pedagogy within our school (teacher)
It had a perfect balance between theory and practical (teacher)

Duration	Full day
Resources	These are all included in the course cost. The Handbook is available on the day and all other materials are made available via the Soundswell website.
Who should attend	<p>a) Staff in both special and mainstream schools supporting pupils who are functioning below national curriculum level 1.</p> <p>b) Speech and language therapists supporting schools to meet the needs of pupils functioning below national curriculum level.</p>