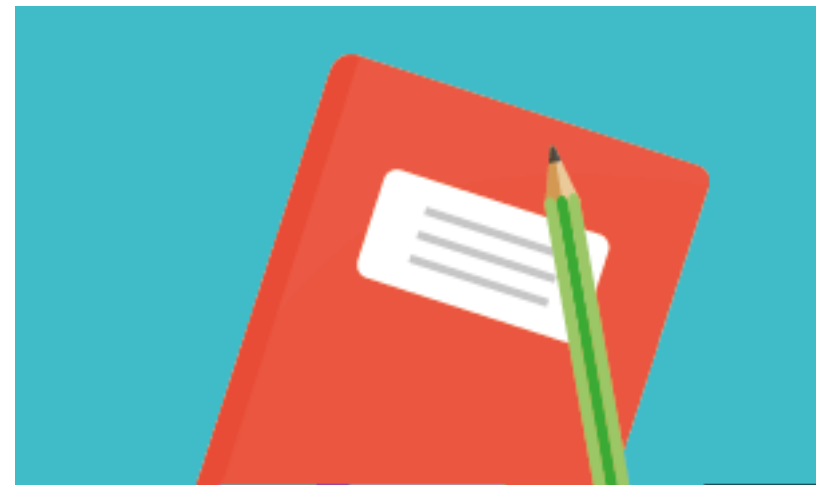




# Introduction to Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

Impact of SLCN on looked after young people

Strategies for communicating with young people with SLCN



# Speech, Language, and Communication Needs

At least 10% of children have SLCN

Communication problems can impair the ability to interact, manage behaviour, learn and think (Melanie Cross, 2004)

50-90% with a persistent SLCN have reading difficulties (Stothard et al 1998)



# Prevalence of SLCN







# Impact of SLCN

Social isolation

Falling behind with work

Presenting as less able than they truly are, due to difficulties with explaining themselves

Not answering the question that was asked, or answering it literally, both of which can lead to getting into trouble

Being disorganised

Mental health difficulties



# Impact of SLCN

Frustration and stress

Employment opportunities

Unable to talk your way out of a problem; difficulty with negotiation

Struggle to maintain friendships through communication

# Looked After Young People and SLCN

Higher than average levels of SLCN amongst children in care (McCool and Stevens, 2011, Prison Reform Trust, 2016)

In areas of high social deprivation around 50% of children start school with limited language (Locke, Ginsborg, and Peers, 2002; Law, McBean, and Rush, 2011)

Two-thirds of 7-14 year olds with severe behavioural difficulties also have communication needs (Hartshorne, 2006)

had SLCN but only two had previously seen a Speech and Language Therapist



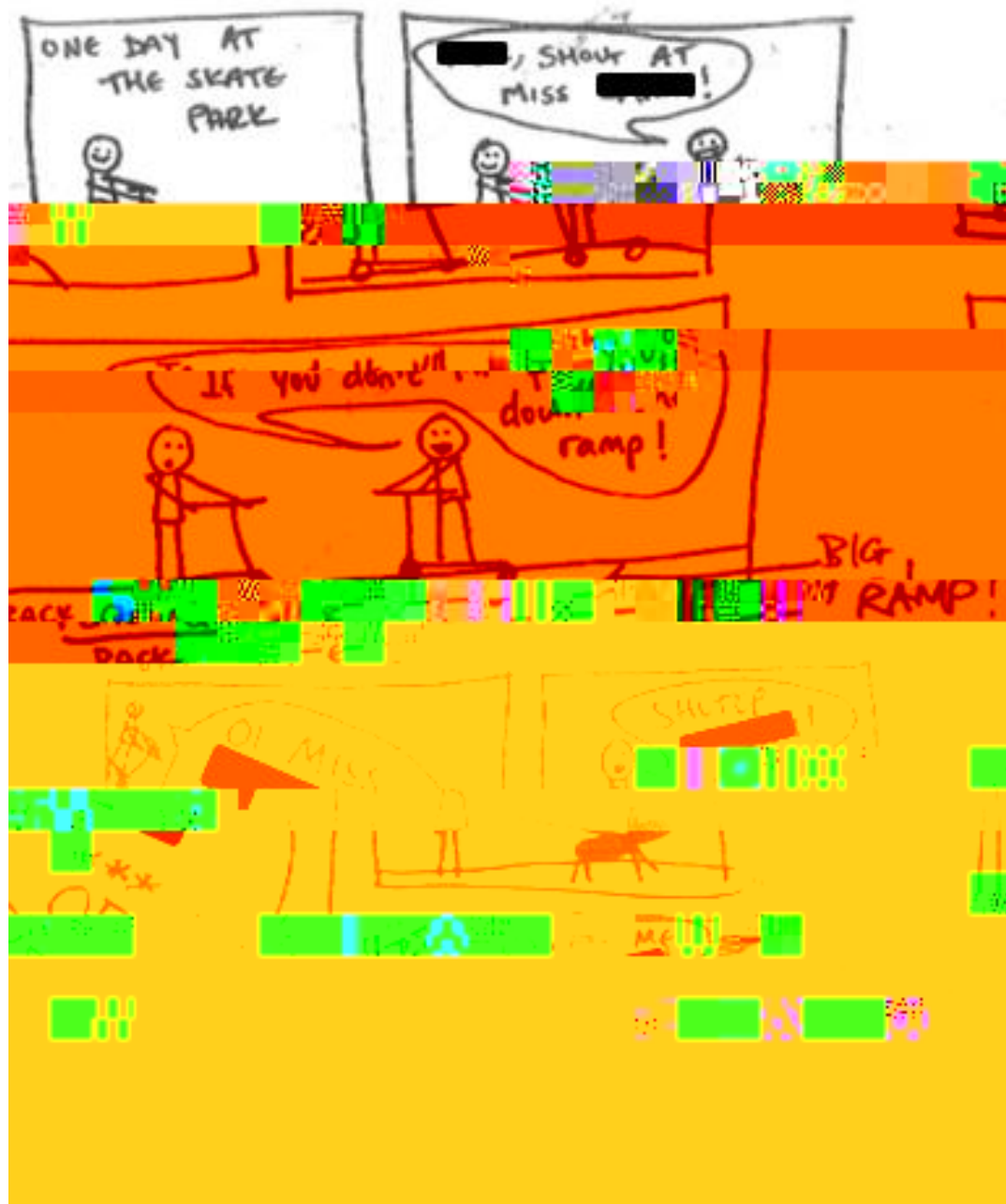
# Strategies for working with SLCN

to explain it in their own words.

Use short simple language when asking questions, using real life examples where possible

Where possible seek out a video to explain these potentially confusing concepts, or provide simple alternative vocabulary.

# Strategies for working with SLCN



# Children and Social Work Bill

Children should express their views, wishes and

# RCSLT Recommends

**SCREEN** Children and young people should be routinely screened when entering care, this should be followed up by a full language assessment by a speech and language therapist if required

**TRAIN** those working with LAC should be trained in awareness of communication needs and how to respond to them

**SUPPORT**

# Benefits of Speech and Language Therapy

## PROMOTING POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Supports social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing and future life chances by helping to remove barriers to forming attachments and relationships and supports education, training, future employment, and participation in society. It supports looked after children through transitions.



# Benefits of Speech and Language Therapy

# Take-Home Message

Be aware of Speech, Language, Communication Needs

Be simple with your language

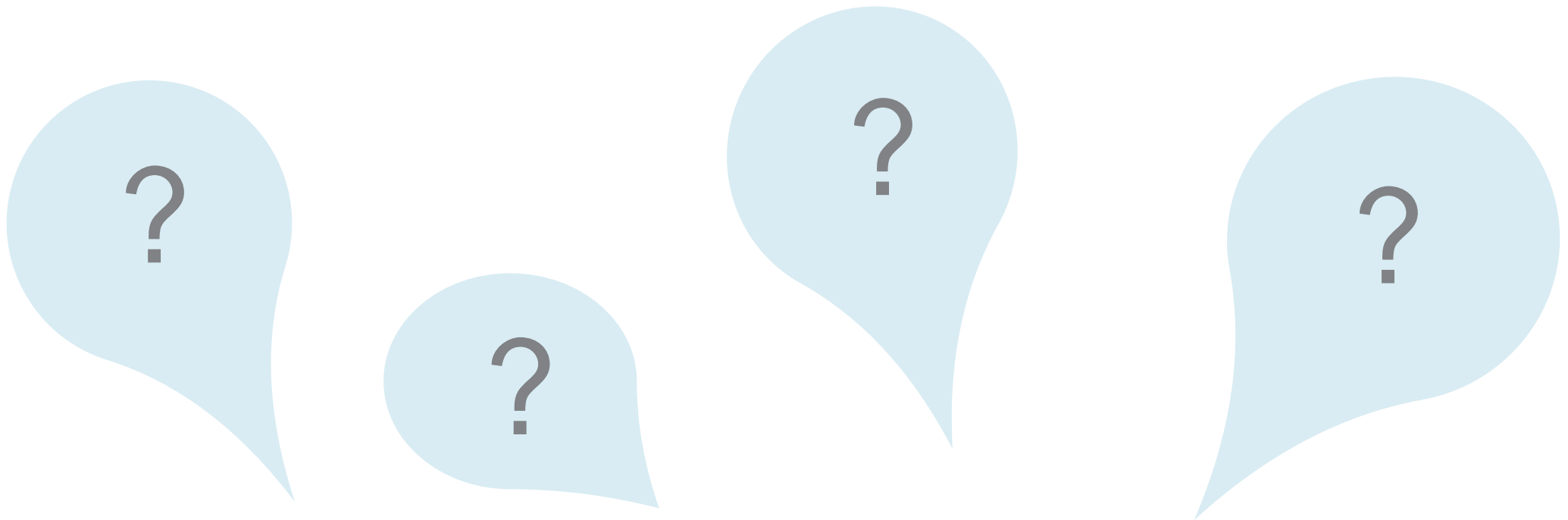
Be ok spending time building rapport

Be direct

Be visual



# Questions



# References

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