

### What is Elklan Training?

Elklan was established in 1999 by two experienced Speech and Language Therapists, Liz Elks and Henrietta McLachlan. It helps those working with children and young people to develop their knowledge and skills in supporting the communication of all children and young people but especially those with speech, language and communication needs.

### What does Elklan offer?

Elklan offers accredited courses. Accreditation is through the Open College Network. These courses:

Give a basic understanding of the skills needed to communicate and the difficulties children and young people experience when they have problems in these areas.

Teach staff and supporting adults strategies to help children and young people more effectively.

### What is the accreditation?

Participants can study at either level 2 or 3, level 2 is an equivalent level of study to a GCSE, level 3 is an equivalent level of study to an A level.

### Who will carry out the training?

Speech and Language Therapists and Specialist Teachers are trained by Elklan to deliver Elklan training programmes. For information on local tutors please contact your local Speech and Language Therapy Department or Elklan.

### How long does the training last?

The training has been written to cover eight two and a half hour sessions. This can either be delivered on a weekly basis (which we would recommend) or can be offered over 3 days. These do not have to be consecutive.

### How much does it cost?

Course costs vary and are determined locally.

### How can I find out more?

Look at the website [www.elklan.co.uk](http://www.elklan.co.uk) or talk to your local Speech and Language Therapy Department.

### Contact information:

### What does the course teach?

- **What is communication?**  
Identify the processes involved in communication.  
Demonstrate the wide range of communication problems.
- **Understand the message**  
Exploring non-verbal communication  
Improving listening skills  
Using visual schedules and practice schedules.
- **Understand the words**  
Which words are difficult?  
Strategies to promote the understanding of words.
- **Understand the language**  
Why might understanding spoken language be difficult?  
How can language be modified to help the listener?  
Consider other issues such as non-literal language and bilingualism.
- **Understand the question**  
A structure to explore the types of questions and demands made on young adult.
- **Understand the situation**  
What skills are needed to be 'streetwise'?  
What strategies can be used? (emotional literacy, comic strips, adapting to change.)
- **The task of talking**  
What are the barriers to talking?  
Consider the interaction.  
Reflect on opportunities provided to talk.  
Explore social skills.
- **Challenges and Changes (linking the course together)**  
Explore different everyday situations.  
What is the communication challenge?  
What changes can be implemented to support the young adult?

Elklan have successfully run courses throughout the UK and Ireland. All the courses have been well received by speech and language therapists, teachers, teaching assistants, workers in Under 5s settings, staff in post 16 settings and parents. It has helped to provide a cohesive service where health workers, education staff and parents have a clearer understanding of each other's roles and how they can work together for the benefit of the children and young people in their care.

### Comments from education staff who have received the training:

"I found the course excellent. It was very interesting from start to finish. The topics covered were very useful to me in the classroom. The children really benefited from all that I had learnt". Diana J

"I have really enjoyed this course. It has been one of the most knowledgeable courses that I have ever been on. It has helped me in my everyday work"  
Tara G

"Very interesting, an excellent course which gave me a lot to think about. Teaching methods were very good, each session was made interesting and enjoyable." Kim G

"I can now say on completion of the final task that I have gained considerable knowledge and improved my own practice noticeably. It has highlighted a number of important factors regarding speech and language which I will be able to use in my everyday work.  
Donna McS

### For more information contact:

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# Elklan

Aiming high with communication

## Speech and Language Support for post 16's

A course for those working with young adults with speech, language and communication difficulties within post 16 settings

By Liz Elks and Henrietta McLachlan  
Speech and Language Therapists