

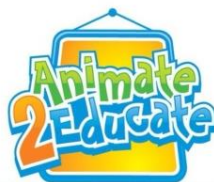
education**Gateshead**

raising achievement for all

Apps to Support Children with SEND



Gateshead
Council



BRINGING THE CURRICULUM TO LIFE

Introduction

Colleagues from SENIT have worked in collaboration with Martin Bailey (*Director - Animate 2 Educate Ltd*) to produce this booklet of apps, which have been specifically selected to support children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The apps have been grouped into the following categories:

- *Reading*
- *Recording*
- *Language*
- *Communication*
- *Fine Motor Skills*
- *Sensory*



Reading



Me Books by Me Books

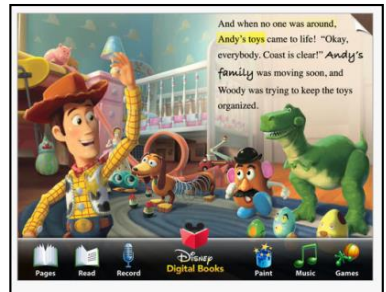
All your classic Ladybird books come alive with many new popular stories used in schools.

All books contain voice narration and enable you to record your own narration, sounds effects and ideas. The 'Me Books' library currently contains classic Ladybird fairytales, along with many popular modern books, such as Elmer, Charlie and Lola, Peppa Pig etc.



Toy Story Read Along by Disney

A fully interactive reading experience packed with games, movie clips, colouring pages, songs etc. Hear the story read aloud, record your own narration, or explore at your own pace.



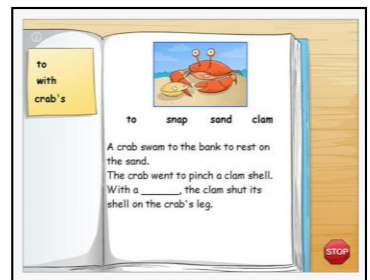
Many of the big UK suppliers are now offering interactive versions of their books. Free samples are available to view (*Oxford Reading Tree, Collins, DK Readers, Big Cat etc*).



Lexia Reading by Lexia Reading

Use of this app requires an active account for Lexia Reading.

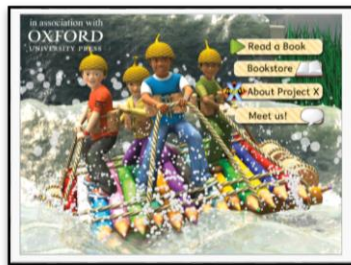
Lexia Reading for iPad includes Lexia Early Reading and Primary Reading content.





[Project X by D&H Edu](#)

Project X is a high-quality whole-school programme designed to motivate children, and raise literacy standards. Stunning 3D artwork, action-packed adventures, amazing gadgets, heroes and villains - everything to hook the Playstation generation into reading! Over 200 books featuring the same characters in an adventure that draws children into their reading. The app features recording your own voice, touch to talk, touch to animate text and books categorized by age group and UK book band.



[iBooks](#)

Large selection of children's books to purchase. Many classic novels and children's stories are available free of charge. Also first chapters or specials of books are available for free. Your own books created on apps such as 'Book Creator' can also be viewed via iBooks, as can .pdf documents, therefore allowing your iPad to be used instead of a visualiser.



[Collins Big Cat: Around the World Story Creator by HarperCollins Publishers Ltd](#)

This app aims to develop reading and writing skills with the Around The World animated, interactive book and Story Creator. The features include an audio narration, music and sound effects to aid language learning – read along with the narration as the words are highlighted. You can also record your own narration and sound effects - perfect for storytelling and to hear progression. Then, transfer reading to writing using Story Creator: make your own book using pictures, characters and key vocabulary from the story, transforming readers into writers.





[First News+ by First News](#)

First News+ is a new augmented reality app. You can use it wherever you see the FN+ icon in your copy of First News.



Simply hover over the picture with your mobile device and watch the extra content come to life, whether it's a video, picture gallery or something else. If you subscribe to First News there is a free app that you can download that makes the articles in the newspaper interactive. Use the iPad camera to scan icons within the newspaper.



[Newsstand](#)

Newspapers and Magazines. Some you subscribe to or you can purchase individual editions. Metro newspaper, cinema magazines (*Cineworld, Odeon etc*) though are available Free of charge. Many resources are now interactive such as the CBeebies Magazine. Horrible Histories, Beano Comic, Shoot, Top Gear Magazine etc are popular choices for use during Guided Reading.

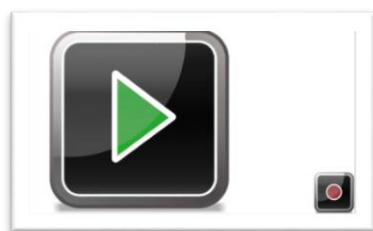
[Recording](#)

[Voice and Video Recording](#)



[PlayButton by Audustry LLC](#)

PlayButton is a simple app that features audio record and playback. One record button, one play button, and one sound at a time. If you need a quick way to record a sound and play it back, it doesn't get simpler than this.





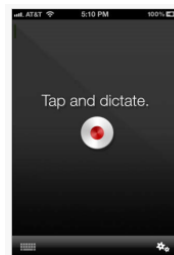
ChatterPix Kids by Duck Duck Moose, Inc.

Children and young people can make anything talk - pets, friends, doodles and more. Simply take any photo, draw a line to make a mouth and record your voice. Then share your Pix with friends and family as silly greetings, playful messages, creative cards or descriptions about the object.



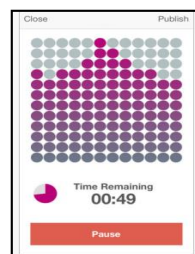
Dragon Dictation by Nuance Communications

Dragon Dictation is an easy-to-use voice recognition application that allows you to easily speak and instantly see your text or email messages.



AudioBoom by Audioboo Ltd

Audioboom is described as the app that helps you share your voice with the world. It records for up to 3 minutes for free, you can post your clips easily to the web, Twitter, Facebook and more, send audio messages to friends and download and store your favourite clips and playlists to play offline.



Spreaker Studio by Spreaker

Spreaker transforms your iPad into a full-featured radio station, allowing you to mix your voice with your iTunes music library and sound effects to create your own radio shows or podcasts. No need for thousands of pounds worth of radio station equipment, this free app is all any school needs!



Recording With Animation



[Sock Puppets by Smith Micro Software, Inc](#)

Children record their voice and story ideas and then watch as they are instantly brought to life by the puppets. The free version of this app is likely to give all the features that you will need.



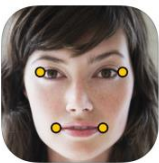
[Toontastic by Launchpad Toys](#)

Simple to use, but very effective. Record your voice and move the characters to make your own animated cartoon.



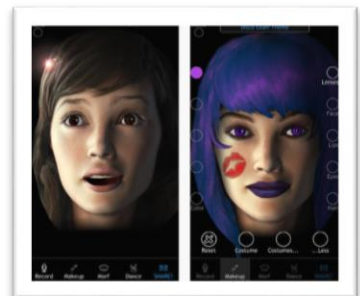
[PuppetPals 2: All Access by Polished Play, LLC](#)

Another great story making app. Bring your cartoon characters and background to life. The advantage of this app is that it allows you to use your own photos for the characters and background.



[Morfo 3D Face Booth by SunSpark Labs](#)

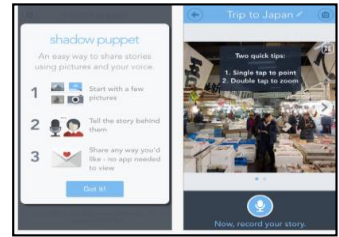
Make an amazing talking 3D face from a photo taken on the camera or a saved image. Great for bringing historical figures to life and for hot-seating of characters etc in Literacy.





Shadow Puppet Edu by Shadow Puppet Inc.

Record a puppet and talk through your photos. Quickly and easily create a narrated slideshow to share your stories.



Text to Speech



Voice4u AAC Communication by Spectrum Visions

Voice4u TTS (Text-To-Speech) is a text-to-speech app with natural sounding voices. The app can read to you any text supported by iOS. This easy-to-use app supports more than 40 languages.



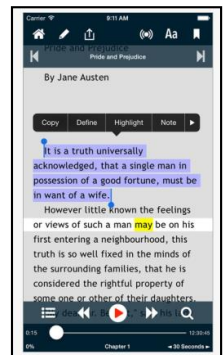
This Week's Words by Simulant

This app has a very sophisticated text-to-speech engine that pronounces each word very clearly for the games and tests.



Voice Dream Reader by Voice Dream LLC

This is an advanced text-to-speech app with a highly configurable screen layout so that it can be tailored to suit every reading style from completely auditory to completely visual, plus synchronized combination of both. It supports reading PDF and Word documents, eBooks, Web pages and more. It also has a range of languages.

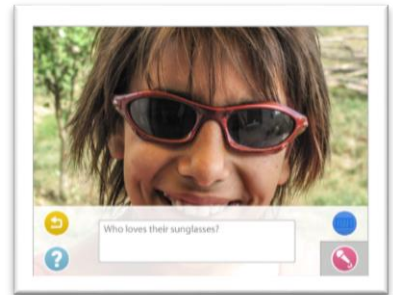


Book Creators



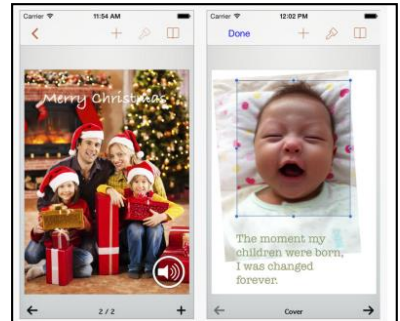
Our Story for iPad by Open University

This app can be an important source of pleasure which also develops vital language and social skills. It can also open up new worlds and give access to the wealth of human knowledge.



Book Writer - e Book, PDF Creator by Good Effect

Make an interactive book and enjoy making and reading the books you made! You can add pictures, text, voice recordings, songs, and videos on the page. You can use the camera to take pictures or videos and add them right on to the book.



Story Creator Pro by Innovative Mobile Apps

With Story Creator you can easily create beautiful story books containing photos, videos, text, and audio all in one gorgeous collection. Story Creator truly brings your best stories to life and easily allows you to retell and share your most memorable moments.

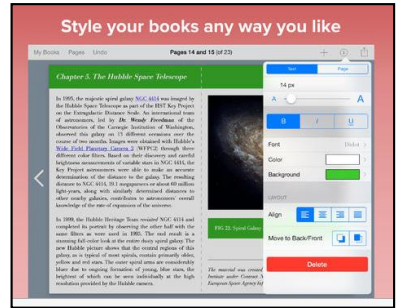




[Book Creator for iPad by Red Jumper Studio](#)

Quickly and easily add pictures, text, music and voice narration

to make your own interactive storybook. Completed books can be opened and read in iBooks, giving pupils a sense of pride that they have created a published book.



[Alternative Ways of Recording Work](#)



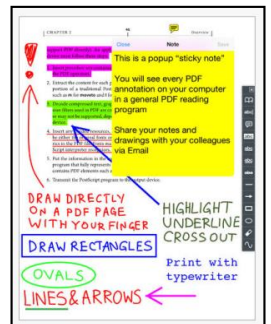
[Moldiv by JellyBus Inc.](#)

Moldiv lets you combine and edit multiple photos to make amazing collages. This app is a great way to create story boards and you can also insert text.



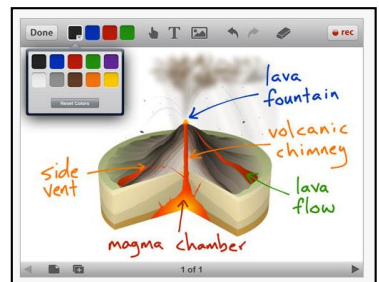
[Good Reader for iPad by Good.i.Ware Ltd](#)

This app allows files to be highlighted and annotated. Supports .pdf, Word, PowerPoint, .jpg and many other popular file formats. Fantastic for children to access resources, but also brilliant for a class as a whole. Write or draw freehand, type text, highlight, underline, cross out, add arrows and shapes.



[Educreations Interactive Whiteboard by Educreations Inc](#)

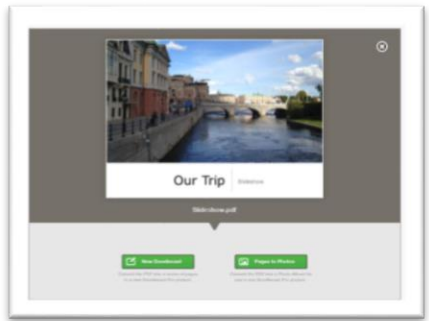
Turns your iPad into a recordable whiteboard. Creating a great video tutorial is as simple as touching, tapping and talking.





[Doodlecast Pro by zinc Roe](#)

Offers an easy way to create presentations on your iPad. The app records your voice as you describe images that you have imported on photos that you have taken. Saves videos direct to your camera roll, making them easy to import into other apps.



[Explain Everything by Morris Cooke](#)

Take or insert saved photos/videos. Create slides and add text, arrows etc and then record voice narration. Instantly converts into a video.



Language



[iTalkAtMoog: The First 100 Words by The Moog Center for Deaf Education](#)

The First 100 Words includes functional vocabulary which occurs throughout a young child's daily routine, such as food, clothing, body parts, animals, colors, numbers and actions. This app will allow you to introduce and practice these words, providing the repetition necessary to learn new vocabulary. The First 100 Words is appropriate for any children who have vocabulary and/or language delays or any young children who are just learning to talk.





What is it? Auditory Flashcards! by Fuze Inc.

What is it? is a fun way to expand a child's vocabulary in an engagingly visual and auditory environment. The series is designed around the concept that presenting visual stimulus alongside audio not only improves a child's ability to memorise the vocabulary being presented but also becomes a source of entertainment, further increasing their desire to learn.



Rainbow Sentences by Mobile Education Store LLC

Rainbow Sentences is designed to help students improve their ability to construct grammatically correct sentences by using colour coded visual cues. The who, what, where, and why parts of sentences are colour coded to help students recognize and understand how combinations of these parts create basic sentence structure.



Colourful Semantics by London SLTS Ltd

Colourful Semantics is based on the Colourful Semantics approach to help children's language Skills develop. What is

unique about this approach is that children learn to associate different 'types' of words with particular colours whereby:

- Who? "the man" (Subject – Orange)
- What doing? "is eating" (Verb – Yellow),
- What? "the sandwich" (Object – Green)
- Where? "in the kitchen" (Location – Blue)
- Describe? "big" (Adjective – Purple)





Stories on Stix by The World Needs Heroes LLC

A fun way to stimulate creative writing ideas. All ages will enjoy the challenge of writing stories from the ideas generated on the stix.



Sentence Builder App by Abitalk Incorporated

This sentence builder app is designed to teach

sight words, sentences, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary and punctuation.

This app can be fully customised with your own pictures, words and sentences.

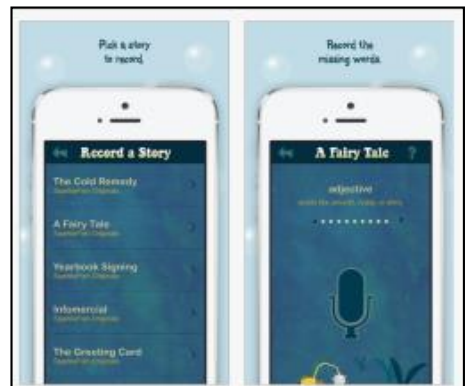
The app starts with simple sentences and progresses to more complex sentences. The sentences focus on daily life situations, with many references to numbers, colours, and dialogue.



Sparklefish by Whoosagoodboy Partners

Children record

adjectives, nouns etc and then these are used to create a story. This app gets children used to thinking about powerful adjectives etc. Once the student has recorded all of their words "SparkleFish" reads the story with the recorded words added.



Communication



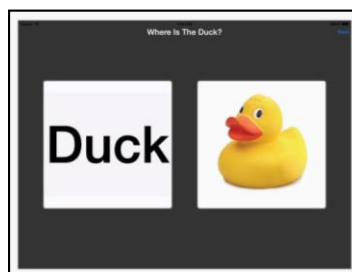
Baby Sign and Learn by Baby Sign and Learn

The Baby Sign and Learn app features cute animated video demonstrations that will captivate your child. Practice by playing the fun interactive quiz and inspire your child to sign with the aid of the colourful flashcards.



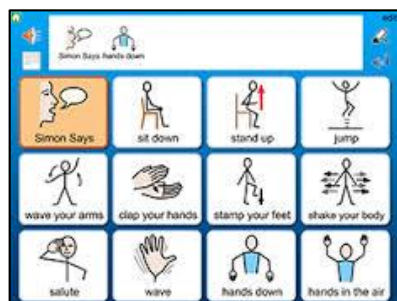
ChoiceBoard – Creator by Techno Chipmunk

ChoiceBoard Creator Maker has been developed to create customisable choice boards for the unique needs of individuals with communication difficulties. It reinforces correct choice by expanding the selected image as well as playing the customised auditory rewards. It is an excellent tool to train and prepare users for more sophisticated communication devices via an easy, simple-to-use choice-making platform.



Widgit Go by Widgit

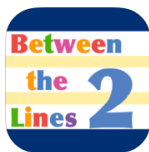
Widgit Go is an app for creating activities and grids to support communication, learning and language development. Use it in the home, in the classroom or on the go. You can print grids to make flash cards, use it as a voice output device and write simple documents with symbols and text from Grids. With Widgit Go you can create and edit activities with access to the complete Widgit Symbol Set containing 12,000 symbols.





[Sorenson BuzzCards by Sorenson Communications, Inc.](#)

BuzzCards is an app in which works like a deck of flashcards. You type the message and show it to the person with whom you are communicating. You can write and save cards with the messages you use the most.



[Between the Lines Level 2 by Hamaguchi Apps](#)

This app provides lots of examples with video modelling and recording voices. Multiple choice options for answers and this app is really interactive.



[SoER by Aleksey Mazepov](#)

This app trains your child to recognise subtle face changes that are indicative of different emotions.

It shows pictures of a range of emotions, users can select different faces to manipulate and show subtle changes. This app has a good range of emotions covered.



*Of all the apps we have tried (ASC Team, SENIT), our view is that **none should be used in isolation** to teach any of the topics they target. **Some** could be used in conjunction with other teaching materials. No 'cheap' apps come anywhere close in terms of sophistication or content compared with programmes available for PC's. Research evidence on the efficacy of using iPads/tablet PC's to teach children with autism is emerging but can only be interpreted tentatively as studies use very small study samples and results cannot therefore be generalised. Research does seem to support their use for Augmented and Assisted communication (AAC) but advice should be sought from a speech and language therapist before making a choice about which app to purchase. There is plentiful research on the effectiveness of video-modelling for which tablet-computers are ideal. Given that a high proportion of children with autism may already spend a lot of time watching screens (TV or computers) then we believe a degree of caution is advisable to minimise over-exposure.*

Fine Motor Skills



[Touch Trainer - Autism & Special Education by Touch Autism](#)

This app supports learning about touch screen technology. Touch trainer plays music and shows a simple animation whenever a button is tapped. The button gets progressively smaller as the app moves through levels. Touch Trainer provides immediate and consistent feedback while allowing the child or young person to practice and have repetition of basic skills.



[Dexteria – Fine Motor Skill Development by BinaryLabs, Inc.](#)

This app contains hand and finger exercises to develop fine motor skills and handwriting readiness by building strength, control and dexterity. Progress is automatically tracked and there is also a reporting feature which can be emailed directly from the app.



[Hairy Letters by Nessy Learning Limited](#)

Trace the formation of letters and learn the names and sounds of each letter with the Hairies!





Letter School by Sanoma Media Netherlands B.V.

High quality animation and progress through different levels of support for each letter. A fun and interactive way to teach how to write letters and numbers.



Alphabet Tracing by Oncilla Technologies Inc

Watch the demonstrations and then trace the letters. Fun animations come to life for children to follow, while showing the proper way to write alphabet letters and numbers.



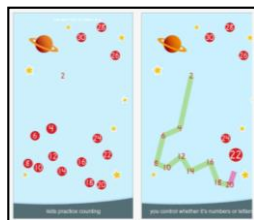
Little Writer Pro – The Tracing App for Kids by Innovative Mobile Apps

This allows you to draw letters, number and shapes. Makes letter tracing into a fun an enjoyable game.



DotToDot Numbers and Letters by Apps in My Pocket Ltd

Follow the number or letter pattern to complete the picture.



Dada Dot by Hansol Huh

Draw letters, words or pictures and the app immediately turns them into dotted lines that can then be traced over. Variety of pen colours and types that can be used.





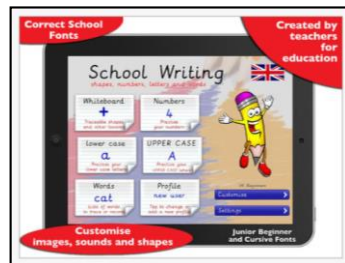
[iWriteWords \(Handwriting Game\) by goodiplus](#)

Collect the numbered balls by dragging him with your finger - and drawing the letter at the same time. Once all the letters in the word are drawn properly, a cute drawing appears. Slide the letters into the spinning hole and advance to the next level.



[School Writing - Learn to Write and More \(UK\) by demografix pty ltd](#)

School Writing contains the education-approved handwriting fonts, including individual cursive letters used in UK Schools.



[Sand Drawing by Timbuktu Labs, Inc](#)

Nice way to get children to practice their letters etc without sand all over the classroom floor! You can add decorations (shells etc) to your drawings and then make waves to clear the page to start again. Relax on the beach and draw in the sand!



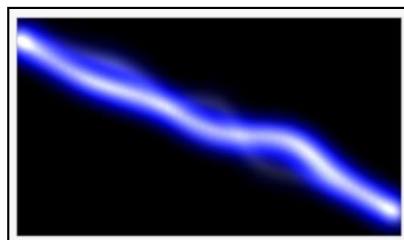
Sensory Apps

Cause and Effect



[Sensory Electra by Sensory Apps Ltd \(Free\)](#)

Electra is a stimulating app which responds to taps and up to 3 finger touch movements. It can be controlled by assistive technology switches.



[Cause and Effect Sensory Light Box by Cognable](#)

Light Box uses abstract animation and sound to introduce basic touch skills and awareness with sounds and graphics suitable for any age-group.

There are a range of options available to customise visuals and simplify controls. This has also been recommended as ‘a “chill out” app for the overly stressed child or adult.



[Egg Head: Baby Touch and Hear by treebetty](#)

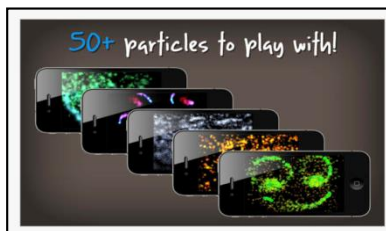
With a simple tap of the screen, simple, colourful eggs are transformed into vibrant, larger than life ‘egg heads’.





Magic Fingers! By Sweet Action Games

Although this app has been designed to create beautifully layered patterns with over 50 different graphical effects with each effect different to the last, it is also a very effective cause and effect app with up to 10 effects produced by each finger and/or hand.



iLoveFireworks by Fireworks Games

With iLoveFireworks, you can create beautiful fireworks by a tap operation. By touching the screen, you immediately see fireworks in 3D graphics and real sounds.



Sensory Room by Inclusive Technology Ltd

This is a fun cause and effect activity – look at the pictures and talk about the story in your own words: What can you see in the multi-sensory room? Do you like the bubble tube or disco lights best? Touch the screen to see what happens next. Switch access is also available within this app.



Bloom by Opal Limited

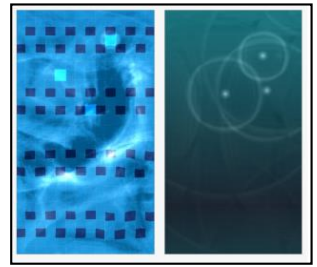
Simply tapping or dragging a finger on the screen produces gentle visuals and calming music that regenerates over time. Click the icon in the bottom right corner to get the settings Page and play around. All very soothing!





Aquasonic by Uwe Ostermeier

This app is based on the analogy of sound waves and water waves. The interactive 'water' surface controls and mimics the musical sounds. Very simple to use – a bit like Bloom, but with more control of sounds.



Falling Stars by Trident Vidality Gum

This is a really simple app. Tap the larger stars and they will fall, creating sounds as they hit the ground. Tap the logo at the bottom left of the screen to display the controls. Tap a leaf and draw a shape on the screen. Tap a Star about it and it will drop down and bounce. The music can be saved to play or edit later.



Special Educational Needs Improvement Team

Gateshead Council's Special Educational Needs Improvement Team (SENIT) consists of two teams; the Low Incidence Needs Team (LINT) and the High Incidence Needs Team (HINT).

LINT includes the Hearing Impairment Team and the Visual Impairment Team both of which provide support to pre-school and school-age children in Gateshead. Specialist teachers hold the necessary mandatory qualifications in the areas of Hearing Impairment and Visual Impairment.

HINT consists of teachers who are specialists in the areas of;

- Communication and Interaction
- Physical and Medical Needs
- Cognition and Learning

The team provide assessment, advice, recommendations and support to schools and settings providing for children and young people aged 4-25 years with High Incidence Needs.

Contact Details

LINT – MPH, 17 Saltmeadows Road, Gateshead, NE8 3AH

HINT – Dryden Professional Development Centre, Evistones Road, Gateshead, NE9 5UR
Tel: 0191 433 8530