

'Total communication' is a term used nationally for a multi-sensory approach to communication. A wide range of tools are used (gesture, body language, speaking, signing, objects, photographs, drawings, symbols together with written words, ICT) in order to establish supportive, inclusive environments.

STC provides 2 major training pathways, one for Early Years and one for schools (Key Stages 1-4)

These are available to parents, carers, staff, practitioners and volunteers throughout Somerset.

There are 3 levels of training for each pathway:

- Induction - an introduction to the principles and practice of STC (minimum 9 hours)
- Second Level - a deeper understanding of language complexity and the impact on life skills (4 half days)
- Coordinator- enables staff to deliver STC Induction training within their workplace (4 half days)

For information on training within Somerset Adult Learning Disability Service, contact Karin Purvis, Head of Speech and Language Therapy (01935 470600)

STC also provides awareness raising, consultancy on developing accessible information, signposting to relevant agencies, opportunities to share good practice and networking.

STC Signing CDs and STC Symbols CDs and other useful resources are available.



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**SOMERSET
TOTAL
COMMUNICATION**



**SOMERSET BELIEVES THAT
COMMUNICATION
IS
A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT
AND
FUNDAMENTAL TO
INCLUSION**

The aim of STC is to ensure:

- that children, young people and adults in Somerset with speech, language and communication needs have a consistent approach to meeting those needs throughout everyday life.
- people are empowered to communicate effectively, which impacts upon relationships, confidence and self esteem and participation in society .

In April 2002 a joint STC strategy was agreed between Somerset Partnership NHS & Social Care Trust, Somerset County Council together with partner agencies.

This is to enable children, young people and adults an equal opportunity to:-



make friends



be included



make choices



achieve independence



understand others



express needs



learn



express feelings



feel less frustrated