



Semi-Formal: Discover, My Communication

The focus of learning English on a semi-formal pathway is on developing functional communication and foundational literacy skills through engaging, sensory-rich experiences and real-life contexts. This approach emphasises practical language use, alongside building communication and independence, often incorporating a total communication approach. Developing early reading skills is a focus and, where appropriate, learners will have phonic / reading sessions built into their timetables each day.

Although Discover learners benefit from this semi-formal approach to teaching, they will still be exposed to a range of text types appropriate to age and cognitive level, whilst highly personalised tasks ensure that all needs are being met. These will be linked to personalised targets, including those linked to literacy and communication on their EHCP.

Examples of Activities:

Sensory Stories/Stories: Using props, costumes, and actions to bring stories to life and engage learners.

Mark-Making: Developing fine motor skills and pre-writing skills through a range of activities.

Manipulative Therapy: Building social and communication skills through collaborative play.

Attention Building Activities: Developing listening and speaking skills through focused activities.

Role-Play: Practicing communication and social interaction in a safe and engaging environment.

Some learners on this pathway will work towards gaining at least Entry Level 1 in English when they reach Year 11, although most will be consolidating their reading, writing and communication skills to help prepare them for adulthood and ensure they have meaningful interactions with the world around them.

