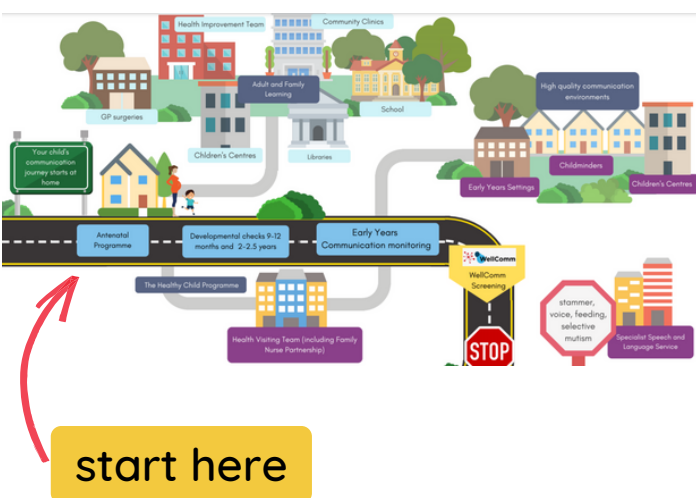


Halton Early Years Communication Pathway Guide

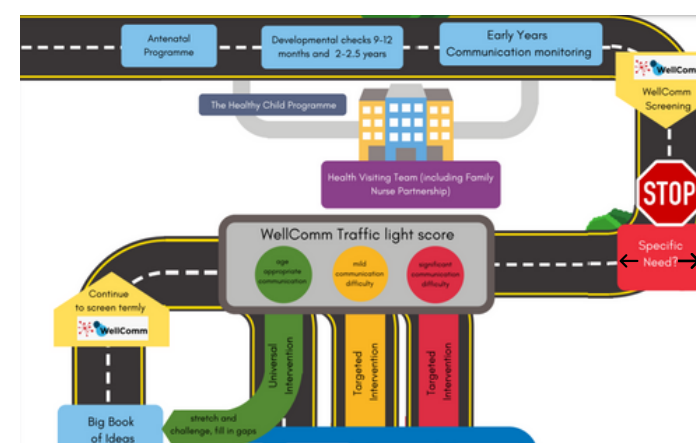
This pathway has been developed to support every child and young person in Halton to be the best communicator that they can be. Our pathway provides guidance and information to support children and young people on their language journey. Halton's vision is for every child in Halton to be given the best start in life so that they are happy, healthy and able to reach their full communication potential. We would like all children to be;

TALKERS, LEARNERS, ACHIEVERS



The Communication Pathway begins with the parent-to-be/parent/carer and child. From here follow the black road to see how children's communication and language will be supported, assessed and monitored throughout their early years.

The grey side paths lead to different buildings, these are places/services where parents and/or professionals can get information and support about children's communication. Any services that work directly with children on their communication development are highlighted in **purple**.



All children (from 6 months) will have the opportunity to receive a WellComm Screening assessment which will look at their communication development.

Children's Centre practitioners, early years settings, childminders and the Health Visiting Team have been trained to carry out WellComm Screening assessments. Parents/carers can discuss any communication concerns with these professionals.

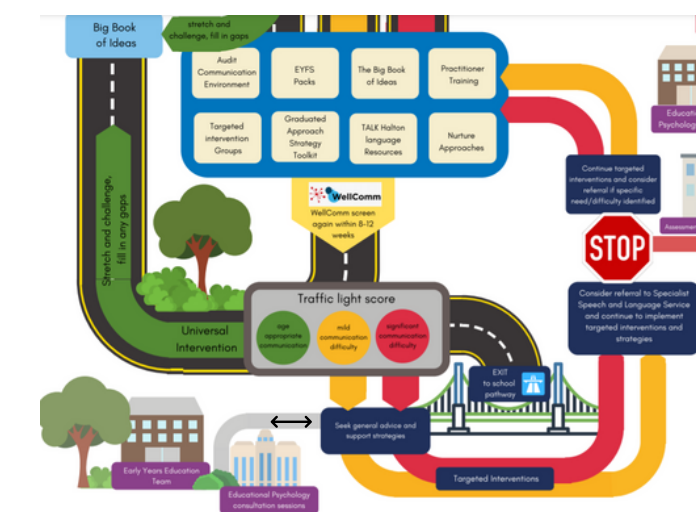
WellComm operates a simple traffic light system of banding children in one of three categories.

Green: On track with their language learning.

Amber: Some language difficulties or gaps in their communication skills.

Red: Displaying language difficulties, extra support is required.

WellComm will be used all the way throughout children's early years. It is important that specific needs/considerations are identified as early as possible to make sure that children get the right support at the right time.



Following WellComm screening different support will be offered depending on how children are doing with communication. This might be direct work with a child, adult training or management of the child's environment. At any stage additional communication support may be sought from services shown on the side paths.

This cycle of assessment and support will continue throughout children's early years until they start school. At this point they will move onto the school age communication pathway.



At any point during children's communication pathway journey a specific need may be identified. Referral to one or more of the specialist services shown on the red path may be appropriate e.g to Audiology for a hearing assessment. Any referrals made will be discussed with parents/carers beforehand.

Children will still continue along the main (black) pathway road with any specialist support running alongside.

If children score **red/amber** on their WellComm screening several times then it is more likely that specialist support will be recommended e.g referral to Speech and Language Therapy. Any referrals made will be discussed with parents/carers beforehand.

In the meantime children will continue to follow the main (black) road of the pathway, receiving support and continued assessment/monitoring of their communication progress.

Support for children's communication is available from pre-birth all the way through to 19 years of age. This support is offered through a range of universal, targeted and specialist services as seen in the pathway.

For more information visit Halton's interactive Communication Hub. On the website you will find information, support and resources for all of your communication needs.

