

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)

This information leaflet is to help you understand what PECS is, who it is for and what will happen in the PECS clinic.

What is PECS?

- A system using pictures and words to develop communication. It teaches a child to exchange a picture for something they want (e.g. toy or food).
- PECS is taught in phases. There are six phases.
- In young children, PECS can support early language development and goes on to teach the structure of simple sentences through pictures.
- PECS teaches that communication is a two way process.
- PECS can be used with other means of communication, **not** replacing or preventing development of speech.

Who is PECS for?

- Children who find it hard to ask for what they want or need.
- Children who do not approach others to start communication.
- Children whose vocabulary is limited.
- Children who have difficulty interacting in a useful or practical way despite having lots of words.

What will happen at a PECS clinic?

- Information sessions for parents and nursery key workers to describe what PECS is and how it can help.
- Five sessions to implement PECS and practice using it within the **clinic**.
- One session to observe and support parents practicing PECS at **home**.
- Regular visits to advise and support staff to implement PECS effectively within the **nursery setting**.

There will be lots of opportunities for parents/staff attending the sessions to be involved in PECS practice.

This leaflet can be made available in other languages and formats upon request

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