



Spotlight on Mable Therapy

Mable Therapy was the joint winner of the SLCN Innovation Award at the 2017 Shine a Light Awards.

There are many challenges in meeting the speech, language and communication needs of children in schools, with growing demands on teachers and NHS services. Mable Therapy, therefore, finds it is more important than ever to make the best use of specialist support, providing effective strategies in an efficient way. It believes its offering provides sophisticated activities with high quality speech and language therapy to all children, wherever they may be located.

Mable Therapy has combined evidence-based practice with the principles of digital gamification to create a flexible and impactful approach to supporting children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Their online platform, supported by their team of speech and language therapists, provides direct therapy and allows children to engage with interactive games that support the personalised targets identified by the therapist, in collaboration with teaching staff and parents.

Mable Therapy's children receive a baseline assessment from which they determine personalised targets. The testing and reporting are then embedded into their games, giving detailed, ongoing tracking of progress.

In order to make it a rounded experience, the therapy can be arranged at times around pupil and teacher timetables so the sessions can be attended by teaching staff and parents with the aim of helping the child's communication during and between sessions.

Although this approach may be new to many teachers, Mable Therapy provides professional development in bite-sized pieces through their Learning Zone, which is directly linked to the needs of the children with whom they are working. Each module has an assessment to check learning and a certificate of achievement to acknowledge professional development.

Working with its 'soft-touch' approach enables Mable Therapy to work in a holistic manner, keeping everyone working to the same goals at any one time. This has proved to be very successful when working with pupils who in other circumstances may be difficult to reach due to their geographical location or additional needs.

Mable Therapy has found that when pupils are engaged in the therapy process, targets are achieved more quickly and effectively. All children involved in Mable Therapy have accessed all sessions, and no children, not even those with significant social, emotional and mental health needs, have missed a session to date!

Parents have been positively responding, appreciating the collaborative approach and being able to see their child's confidence constantly improve.



Teachers have been reporting positively on the convenience of accessing tele-practice sessions with a real speech therapist, having the measureable baseline data, and comprehensive outcome tracking, with the pupils themselves enjoying the interactive games and collaborative therapy approach.

Their unique approach is having a positive impact on children and young people by building knowledge and skills in their parents and teaching staff, meaning children are being supported at every level.

Mable Therapy shared this award with ClearCut Communication at the County Durham Youth Offending Service, a communication-friendly resource that is uniquely used with both the victim of crime and the young person who has offended, with the intention of a potential restorative meeting.

Mable Therapy has been jointly awarded the *SLCN Innovation Award* for their innovative approach and inclusion of parents, highlighting how telehealth can be used to reach a whole range of children, including those who are hard to reach, with great success.