

# Talkback's Post 16 Specialist Provision



**Talkback**

DEVELOPING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

**Engage.  
Educate.  
Employ.**

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**Live. Learn. Work.**

# Welcome to Talkback

**You are either a young autistic person, or have a learning disability; you possess an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) and are trying to decide where best to go after leaving school. There are a lot of options.**

Talkback focuses on helping you develop independence, through gaining life skills, and being in the community volunteering and with employment opportunities. All our classes are kept to a maximum of 10 people, to create a small purposeful professional environment that works for you.

## The way we work

Your uniqueness is celebrated. We help to remove any barriers to your success. You will:

- Work with high quality and caring qualified training practitioners.
- Build a sense of belonging through trusted relationships.
- Explore and develop skills which build self-esteem and confidence.
- Choose your next step and develop a planned path to get there.
- Take on volunteering or employment including supported internships.
- Find independence and achieve progression every year.

## Our impact

Over the last 10 years we have supported students in college, our classrooms, and our workshops.

- We have helped **10 people** go to university.
- We have helped **100 people** into paid and volunteer work.

## Find out more

If you want to explore whether this is an option for you, come and talk to us, or apply via your young person's Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) Coordinator at your local authority.

**Welcome to your future.  
Welcome to Talkback.**





# Preparing for adulthood

Our provision covers a wide range of areas, all designed to help you prepare for adulthood and increase self-esteem and confidence building.

1

## Functional Skills

- English
- Maths
- NOCN Qualification in woodwork and employment

2

## Independent Living

- Life and Domestic skills
- Communication and Self-Advocacy
- Travel Training and Money Management

3

## Education and Employment

- Career Guidance
- Supported Internships and Work Experience
- Route to Volunteering and Route to Employment

4

## Being Healthy

- Personal safety and care
- Healthy Living and Wellbeing
- Relationship building

5

## Community Inclusion

- Volunteer work experience
- Community events and visits
- Meeting community organisations







**Engage is a programme designed for young people aged 16 to 25 who have found traditional education challenging.**

It's ideal for those who are currently not in education, employment or training (NEET), as well as for young people who need extra support transitioning from home schooling or adjusting to the next stage of their education.

The programme helps build confidence, develop practical skills and create a positive mindset for the future. With a supportive environment and tailored approach, Engage empowers young people to take their next step with clarity and purpose.

## Focus Areas

- Reflecting the individual needs of each student, based on their interests, aspirations and personal challenges.
- Personalised pace for development.
- Safe, supportive environment for personal and educational growth.
- Encouraging positive relationships and teamwork through group activities.
- Building confidence through real-world experiences and creative expression.

## Key Outcomes

- Confidence to engage with the next steps of life.
- Pathways into education and employment.
- Meaningful personal development.
- Stronger self-awareness and an ability to set personal goals.



**My social life has improved and my organisational skills too. I feel more confident.**

A Talkback member



If you are a young person leaving school and looking for a nurturing, tailored environment, with smaller group sizes, then Educate is a great option.

## Focus Areas

- **Life Skills:**  
Money management, social development, anxiety management, communication, and travel training.
- **Qualifications:**  
Functional Skills in English and Maths (Entry Level 1 to Level 2). Access to Higher Education where appropriate.
- **Work Readiness:**  
Build confidence for employment, through a unique work experience programme. We cover a number of sectors to give you the chance to try different employment options.

## Key Outcomes

- Improved independence through practical life skills.
- Enhanced communication and social confidence.
- Recognised qualifications in English and Maths to support further education or training.
- Increased confidence and readiness to enter the workplace.
- Broader understanding of career options through hands-on experience.
- Reduced anxiety and better ability to manage change.

“

**I have enjoyed travel training and cooking.  
I have found growth in myself and have  
developed confidence**

A Talkback member



# Our five educational routes

At Talkback, we have five educational routes to ensure we meet every person's needs and aspirations

Route to  
**Personal Development**

Route to  
**Independence**

Route to  
**Volunteering**

Route to  
**Employment**

Supported  
**Internships**





**Each of our routes has different elements, but the following is a flavour of what our range of groups cover.**



## Personal Social Development Group

The aim of these sessions is to develop confidence and self-esteem, teaching the student to value who they are and what they can do. One term will cover our Relationship Course.



## Independent Living Group

Students will build skills for independent living, including how to do laundry, cook meals, and shop for food. They'll also complete household tasks and explore future housing options.



## Employability Skills

The students will have access to careers advice. They will discuss employment options, create their own CV, learn about interviews and the world of work, as well as visit an employer.



## Work Experience in a Voluntary Placement

Students will be supported in charity shops, libraries, care homes, animal care, and a wide range of other placements, introducing them to the world of work.



## Travel Training

Students explore their local area and practise road safety. They'll choose a personal travel goal, then work towards it, building confidence to complete the journey independently.



## Work Experience for Employment

Students will experience two different placements, with options from Retail, Horticulture, Hospitality & Catering, The Accessible Workshop, Care Homes, Animal Care.



## Employer Partnerships

We have work opportunities at over 15 employers, including Sainsburys, Braywick Plant Nurseries, and a variety of professional businesses, farms and retail outlets.



## Functional Skills in Maths and English

We provide the academic support to enable every young person to maximise their potential, developing skills in English and Maths.









## The Accessible Workshop

**The Accessible Workshop offers a comprehensive range of woodworking and practical skills designed to empower individuals.**

Participants not only learn how to plan and manage projects but also gain the knowledge needed to market and sell their finished items. From basic home safety awareness to repairing, creating, up-cycling, and developing valuable employment skills, The Accessible Workshop provides clear and achievable progression pathways.

Each person works from clear, structured plans on commissioned and bespoke projects. We also offer the opportunity to gain qualifications through NOCN accredited courses, ranging from Entry Level 3 to Level 2 in Carpentry and Joinery.

### Key skills you'll gain

- 1 Basic woodworking and DIY skills that can be applied in everyday life.
- 2 Confidence to tackle a wide range of DIY tasks.
- 3 Proficiency in using a variety of hand and power tools.
- 4 Knowledge of up-cycling and how to turn unwanted items into valuable products.
- 5 Skills in budgeting, marketing, and selling products.
- 6 The ability to plan, execute, and complete projects for home and garden use.
- 7 Hands-on experience with advanced power tools and machinery.

“

**The Accessible Workshop feels like home. I love working with other members of the group to create amazing things.**

A Talkback member



If you are a young person ready to take your first steps into the world of work, our **Employ** programme will support you to build confidence, develop practical skills, and explore real job opportunities.

## Focus Areas

- **Work Experience:**  
Gain hands-on experience through supported placements in sectors such as retail, hospitality, logistics, and administration. Learn what it's like to be part of a workplace team.
- **Employment Skills:**  
Build your CV, practise interview techniques, improve time management, and understand workplace behaviour and expectations.
- **Job Coaching:**  
Access personalised support from job coaches who will guide you through applications, placements, and on-the-job learning.

## Key Outcomes

- Greater confidence in work environments.
- Improved communication and teamwork skills.
- Real-world experience to include on your CV.
- Better understanding of your strengths and job preferences.
- Preparation for supported employment or open job roles.
- Clearer vision of your future career goals.



**Talkback helps me make new friends.**

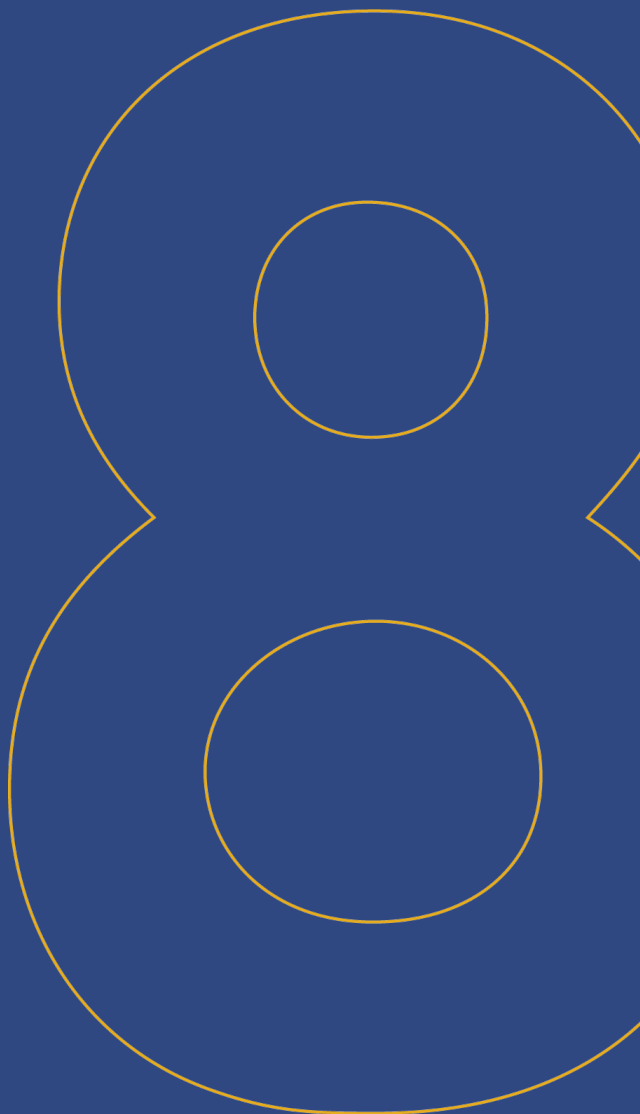
A Talkback member



# Our eight key skills

We look at 8 key skills across all our work to make people employment ready.

Communication  
Making Decisions  
Self Motivation  
Leadership Skills  
Teamwork Skills  
Creativity Skills  
Problem Solving  
Time Management







## Talkback's Supported Internship

**For 18-25-year-olds with an EHCP, our Supported Internship is a work-based study programme, designed to lead to paid employment.**

We combine workplace experience with tailored support from a job coach, to develop work skills and independence. Interns will spend most of their time in a work placement, aligned with their career aspirations. The programme runs for 6, 9, or 12 months, typically over three days a week, providing a flexible transition from education to work.

### Focus Areas

- To build on previous work experiences and achieve realistic career aspirations that enable Talkback to find suitable employer opportunities.
- Workplace training and suitable qualifications, relevant to future employment.

### Learner Profile

- You are 18-25 years old.
- You will have an EHCP.
- You will have autism or a learning disability as a primary diagnosis.
- You will have undertaken a range of work experience and have realistic career aspirations that enable us to match you to an employer.
- You have completed an employability, or other school/further-education, programme.
- You have previously accessed independent travel training and will be able to travel to your place of work.
- You have achieved Entry Level 3 or above in Literacy and Numeracy.
- You are willing to undertake workplace training and any qualifications that are relevant to the field in which you wish to work.



**If you are motivated to work and ready to take the next step, our programme can help you succeed.**



# How to join us and the process



There are several ways a young person can be referred to our programme:

- 1 Through your Local Authority ECCHO**  
We work closely with Educational Health Care Plan Coordinators to ensure the right package is in place for each individual. If you think Talkback may be suitable, please ask your EHCP Coordinator to contact [sophie.white@talkback-uk.com](mailto:sophie.white@talkback-uk.com)
- 2 Via schools and sixth forms**  
We partner with local schools and education providers. If you are a parent or carer, please speak to your school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) or transition professional and ask them to get in touch.
- 3 For Supported Internships**  
We deliver these programmes in collaboration with schools, the Council, and on behalf of Bucks College Group. For details, please contact [hassnain.hanif@talkback-uk.com](mailto:hassnain.hanif@talkback-uk.com)
- 4 General enquiries**  
If you would like to have an initial conversation with us about suitability, feel free to contact us [talkback@talkback-uk.com](mailto:talkback@talkback-uk.com)

## The Process

### Step 1: Arrange a Visit

If you're considering Talkback as a placement, we recommend arranging a tour of our centres in Aylesbury or High Wycombe.

### Step 2: Name Talkback in the EHCP

If we are your preferred placement, let your Local Authority know you'd like Talkback named in Section I of your young person's EHCP.

### Step 3: Formal Consultation

A Local Authority may consult with us either due to parental preference or because they believe we meet the learner's needs. Once we receive the formal consultation paperwork, our Admissions Team will review it.

### Step 4: Assessment

If we haven't met the learner yet, we may invite you for a visit or informal assessment during the 15-day consultation window.

### Step 5: Decision and Transition

We will respond to the consultation within 15 working days. If we and the Local Authority agree on the placement, we'll begin a transition process, which may include initial assessments and planned visits to ensure a smooth and supported start.

# Why choose Talkback?

1

## **Small & Person-Centred**

As a smaller organisation, staff truly get to know each student, celebrating their progress. Every small step matters.

2

## **Specialised Focus**

Talkback's expertise is in autism and learning disabilities, providing an environment that is built around the student

3

## **Pathways for Life**

From education to supported employment and beyond, We help young people thrive at every stage of their journey.

4

## **Wellbeing First**

Safeguarding and pastoral care are at the very heart of everything we do.

5

## **Proven Track Record**

Talkback has an established twenty-five-year record and solid knowledge base.

6

## **Positive Outcomes**

Students achieve their aspirations, through flexible, outcome-focused programmes in a supportive setting.

7

## **Pastoral Support**

We provide support to students and their families, to ensure they achieve their aspirations, no matter how small or big.



# Talkback

**DEVELOPING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES**

## Find out more

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