

The Connection Kit

Connection First – Everything Else Follows For Schools



WHAT IS THE CONNECTION KIT?

“Understand how they tick & connect where it counts”

The Connection Kit is a practical toolkit for parents, educators, and professionals who want to better understand how children learn, feel, and regulate and to connect with them in ways that truly stick.

At its core, this resource helps adults tune into the child in front of them, their thinking style, emotional needs, and the strategies that help them thrive.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE

A gentle, observational tool inspired by multiple intelligences, sensory integration, and regulation models. This helps you identify a child's natural way of processing the world through story, logic, movement, visuals, or hands-on learning.

LEARNER CONNECTION PROFILES

Four learner profiles;

BIG PICTURE MINDS **HANDS-ON PLANNERS** **EXPRESSIVE SPARKS** **PATTERN SEEKERS**

each with insights into what makes them tick and how to build rapport, trust, and engagement.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT GRID

See how each profile may present when dysregulated and find tailored strategies to support connection, co-regulation, and recovery.

THE ACTIVITY LIBRARY

A rich bank of creative, movement-based, and story-led activities to support emotional development and wellbeing, all matched to learner profiles and the child's emotional state.

Categories include:

Emotion Activities *Interoception* *Friendship & Kindness* *Resilience & Self-Worth*
Stories & Clips *Conflict Resolution* *Therapeutic LEGO®* *Yoga & Movement* *Transitions*

BOOKLISTS FOR CONNECTION

Curated story recommendations by age, learner profile, and emotional state — helping you use stories as powerful tools for empathy, emotional literacy, and connection.

WHY IT WORKS

The Connection Kit makes regulation, resilience, and learning feel natural and achievable. When children feel understood, emotional development becomes a **relationship-driven process**, not a behaviour-managed one.

This is not a behaviour tool.

It is a **connection tool** — grounded in the question:

“How does this child experience the world, and how can I meet them there?”

FOR SLT/SENCO

HOW THE CONNECTION KIT FITS THE GRADUATED RESPONSE

The Connection Kit is designed to align with the **Assess – Plan – Do – Review** cycle used within SEN Support and EHCP provision.

Assess

The Connection Kit Questionnaire is used to identify how a child processes information, communicates, and regulates most effectively.

Plan

Each learner profile pack contains a pre-curated set of activities, movement approaches, and adult communication strategies matched to that profile.

This removes the need for additional planning.

Do

Adults carry out the activities and strategies in daily practice, embedding them naturally within classroom routines and interactions.

Review

Progress is reviewed against an agreed outcome using brief observation and reflection.

This framework supports the delivery of existing targets, it does not replace specialist assessment or intervention.

WHAT THIS CAN LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE

A child may have several existing targets in place, for example:

fine motor development use of positional language phonics practice emotional regulation

Rather than running these as separate interventions, staff may use one Connection Kit activity as a shared context.

For example, during a hands-on building activity:

the child practises fine motor skills while manipulating resources
the adult models and prompts positional language (e.g. “on top”, “next to”)
phonics sounds are practised naturally through naming objects
predictable structure and movement support emotional regulation

In this way, multiple targets are practised within one meaningful interaction, without increasing time demands or fragmenting support.

This approach reflects skilled, responsive practice and supports consistency across the school day.

Is The Connection Kit a robust, inspection-ready approach?

The Connection Kit is not a statutory programme and is not “approved” by Ofsted or any external body. Ofsted does not endorse specific systems or interventions.

However, The Connection Kit has been deliberately designed to align with the SEN Code of Practice and the Assess – Plan – Do – Review cycle used within SEN Support and EHCP provision.

Schools using The Connection Kit can demonstrate:
clear identification of need through observation and assessment
targeted provision matched to how a child processes, communicates, and regulates
consistent implementation within daily practice
regular review and adjustment based on impact

The outcomes supported by The Connection Kit focus on improved regulation, engagement, and readiness to learn, which are recognised and accepted indicators of progress for children with SEND.

As such, The Connection Kit provides a coherent, defensible framework that supports schools in evidencing thoughtful, needs-led practice during inspection or review.