**SCILS (Social Communication, Interaction and Learning Skills)**

**Parent/Carer Course**

**Who is the course for?**

The course is specifically designed for the parents/carers of young children with Social Communication Difficulties including those with an Autism diagnosis. The course is by invitation only. Parents are invited to attend an information session to learn about the course and meet the presenters. There is no commitment at this point and parents can decide if they wish to apply.

The group sessions are led by two Early Years professionals from SEND Specialist Services and/or Early Support partners (e.g. a Speech and Language Therapist).

**How long is the course?**

* Seven weekly sessions (2.5 to 3hrs) with a group of parents with children who have similar difficulties.
* One follow-up session held 6 weeks after the end of the course

**What are the aims of the course?**

* To provide an opportunity to meet and share ideas with other parents
* To understand what social communication difficulties are and the effect it has on your child’s development
* To learn ways to help your child’s social communication, behaviour and play skills
* To help you feel more confident and have a positive approach to parenting

**What will sessions cover?**

The course will look in depth at understanding social communication difficulties and how this shows itself in the ways children learn and play. It will look at strategies to support a child’s communication and behaviour and identify successful ways to engage your child. There will be opportunities to think about how best to manage daily life and routines.

Each session will be a combination of group discussion, activities and presentations. Parents will be encouraged to try things at home with their child and bring back their learning to the group.