



## **What is SCERTS?**

SCERTS is an educational model for working with children with autism spectrum disorder and their families. It was developed in the States following years of research into the core skills that are needed in order to have the best outcomes in later life. It provides specific guidelines which aim to help a child to become good at communicating socially, while addressing any behaviours that might distract or interfere with learning and the development of relationships.

The letters of SCERTS refer to the focus on:

**“SC” - Social Communication** – the development of spontaneous, functional communication, emotional expression, and secure and trusting relationships with children and adults;

**“ER” - Emotional Regulation** - the development of the ability to maintain a well-regulated emotional state to cope with everyday stress, and to be most available for learning and interacting;

**“TS” – Transactional Support** – the development and implementation of supports to help adults respond to the child’s needs and interests, modify and adapt the environment, and provide tools to enhance learning (e.g., picture communication, written timetables, and sensory supports).

## **How will we use it?**

We will use the SCERTS curriculum to identify targets for individual children, within each of the three areas outlined above. These targets will form the basis of the individual child’s IEP, along with any further EHCP objectives not covered by the SCERTS targets. Through the use of SCERTS the aim is to teach specific skills and to put in place appropriate supports within both the school and home environment. We will not use the model in its entirety, but will take the most useful and relevant parts for our school and for individual pupils.

## **How does it fit in with what we already do at Addington?**

The SCERTS model provides a framework for targeting the most significant challenges faced by children with ASD. We can effectively integrate it into the teaching methods we currently use at Addington, such as Structured Teach, Social Stories, Intensive Interaction & Team Teach amongst others. It supports our ‘eclectic’ approach, which uses different strategies/methods depending on the individual student.

**For more information visit:**

[www.scerts.com](http://www.scerts.com)