

The Early Language Team (ELT) is part of East Ayrshire Support Team (EAST). This provision supports children who have or are suspected of having a severe, developmental language disorder, from their pre-school year until the end of Primary 3.

The ELT is staffed by personnel from both education and health (EAST/EAHSCP) and is made up of a teacher and a specialist speech and language therapist (SLT) from the Children and Young People's (CYP) Speech and Language Service. Additionally the team can access support from an East Ayrshire Educational Psychologist as required. A Principal Teacher has first line responsibility for the ELT.

The ELT adopts a multi-agency approach to supporting identified children. Support is provided on an outreach basis in Early Childhood Centres and mainstream schools across East Ayrshire.

Staff within the ELT undertake additional personal study to remain abreast of current best practice to support this cohort of learners.

Request for Assistance (RfA)

Requests for assistance to the Early Language Team (ELT) come from a collaborative process of initial identification involving the child's case Educational Psychologist, speech and language therapist, parents, educational establishment and other relevant agencies.

A designated group of identified personnel convene a minimum of three times per session where RfAs are discussed and appropriate next steps agreed. Following identification of the child's speech language and communication needs an individual intervention programme will be established collaboratively where appropriate.

The ELT contributes to the authority's support policies and procedures to reflect best practice as detailed in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009 through:

- Consultation, liaison, advisory support
- Curriculum & Staff development
- Direct teaching
- Supporting early identification and assessment

What the Early Language Team does

Consultation, liaison, advisory support

- Provides advisory support on adaptations to materials, specialist resources and strategies required to make the curriculum accessible to learners with a language disorder
- Participates in multi-disciplinary meetings for planning and review
- Provides transition information on transfer to primary school
- In partnership with parents/carers and schools/ECCs contributes to the development of children's ILPs using a profile of the children's individual strengths and difficulties
- Supports children and their families to manage

their **child's** language and communication needs

Curriculum & Staff development

- Provides guidance to colleagues in educational establishments who are supporting a child with a severe developmental language disorder
- Delivers career-long professional learning (CLPL) opportunities for colleagues through formal training/modelling and coaching to increase knowledge and understanding in this area
- Develop the capacity of others working with a child to use skills and strategies to help their continued development and promote wellbeing

Direct teaching

- Devises a personalised language programme based on the individual needs of the child
- Provides an equitable child-centred approach to managing developmental language disorder
- Provides direct teaching support across the curriculum as appropriate, as well as providing a monitoring role

Supporting early identification and assessment

- Contributes to the assessment process through formal assessments
- Carries out observations within the child's Early Childhood Centre/school
- Uses the Well-Being Indicators to assess and support language development and wellbeing as well as measuring the impact of the targeted (specialist) supports in place

Parent/carer links

Staff in the Early Language Team adopt an holistic approach to support and close links are established with the families of identified children.

Staff maintain regular communication with parents/ carers through a variety of methods.

- Face to face meetings
- Telephone/email communication

General information about the ELT may be found on

- EAST Blog/Twitter

Useful links

www.speechandlanguage.org.uk

www.afasic.org.uk

www.hanen.org/Home.aspx

www.radld.org

For further information please contact:

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EAST AYRSHIRE SUPPORT TEAM

Service Leaflet

**Early
Language
Team
(ELT)**