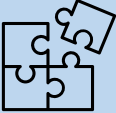









Midlothian Toddle-in Clinic

An Early Language and Communication Improvement Story Board from
NHS Lothian (Midlothian)

 The issue	 The team	 Our idea
<p>It was observed that Speech and Language Therapy Services were not as easily accessed by families from areas of multiple deprivation. Whilst families had expressed concerns regarding their child's communication development, it was found that they found it more difficult to access support in formal, health settings, with professionals they had not met. This had an impact on early intervention and parental anxiety.</p>	<p>Speech and Language Therapists Health Visitors Nursery Nurses</p>	<p>For 2 Speech and Language Therapists to attend monthly 'Toddle In' sessions, in community settings (across 2 locations). These are run by the Health Visiting Team. They provide a forum for families to access universal / targeted support, pre request for assistance.</p>
 Tools & resources we used.	 What we did	 The impact
<p>Universal and targeted speech and language therapy resources were used for signposting / advice</p> <p>Requests for assistance forms completed and accepted where appropriate</p> <p>Health visiting team provided toys to create a relaxed play environment</p> <p>Health visitors provide routine health checks using specialised equipment and provide age and stage resources</p>	<p>Health Visitors invited families to attend 'Toddle In'. They sent a text reminder to families the day before. Families then attended a joint Speech and Language Therapy / Health Visiting Toddle In session in a community space. They discussed their communication / health concerns and accessed universal / targeted advice.</p> <p>Requests for assistance were taken and accepted where appropriate.</p> <p>Information regarding helpline support was also provided.</p>	<p>Improved access to Speech and Language Therapy Services – invited families attended</p> <p>Reduced rates of initial assessment DNAs</p> <p>Reduced parental anxiety</p> <p>Better quality of requests for assistance from Health Visiting Team</p> <p>Better joint working relationships between Speech and Language Therapy and Health Visiting</p>
 Our learning & next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve access further by identifying additional localities. - Consideration of other AHP input required - Shared responsibility between Health Visiting and Speech and Language Therapy teams for further requests to other agencies. - Use more formalised Quality Improvement approach 	
 Find out more	<p>loth.newbattlecluster@nhs.scot (Health Visiting team)</p> <p>loth.childrengsltmidlothian@nhs.scot (Midlothian SLT team)</p>	