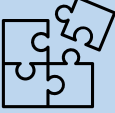









Storyboard at a Glance...

- Families
- Environment
- Workforce
- Identification
- Intervention
- Universal
- Targeted

Social Communication Differences – Parent Group

An Early Language and Communication Improvement Story Board from North Ayrshire

 The issue	 The team	 Our idea
<p>Increasing numbers of children being identified with social communication differences in nursery</p> <p>Challenges at home and going into social situations</p> <p>Some parents were feeling isolated.</p> <p>Parents/carers asking ELC staff for tips/ideas to help support their children.</p> <p>Support from outside agencies</p>	<p>Jennifer Alexander, Equity and Excellence Lead</p> <p>We Work For Families</p> <p>Speech & Language Therapy</p>	<p>Parents/carers spend most time with their children. If they are given the tools to support their child's SL&C their child will have the best outcome. As some families whose children have additional support needs feel isolated, being able to hear about other families' experience may reduce that isolation.</p> <p>We considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How best to engage parents/carers to encourage them to attend the group. Date and time of sessions (think of drop off/pick up times) Comfort breaks included in design of workshop Who might be needed to support them to attend What the content of the sessions/pace of session (mindful of needs of participants) Where would these sessions be held
 Tools & resources we used.	 What we did	 The impact
<p>Utilising the skills they had learned from attending a previous course delivered by We Work For Families to help develop confidence and self-esteem</p> <p>Identifying families</p> <p>Springvale's Facebook page for advertising & sign up</p> <p>Using QI methodology learning to inform how to develop this group.</p>	<p>We developed:</p> <p>Two 2-hour sessions</p> <p>Building on previous discussions of content between EYP & SLT</p> <p>All families were invited initially (including local community via Facebook)</p> <p>Families were invited via "Xpressions APP</p> <p>Flyer was given to all families describing group</p> <p>Posters were placed in nursery</p>	<p>It gave the families a network of support.</p> <p>Reduction in feelings of isolation as the parents shared their stories about their children and commonalities were discovered</p> <p>Parents were able to try ideas shared to support their child's communication attempts e.g. giving choices.</p>

<p>Using Hanen strategies/prior knowledge gained from courses delivered by SLT</p> <p>Having fidget toys for parents/carers when arriving at session (distraction for parents to relax more in the environment)</p> <p>Feedback from parents was left until end of session to reduce anxiety of parents.</p>	<p>Followed up with a personal invitation to targeted families who we felt would benefit most from the input</p> <p>Early language strategies, and strategies to support social communication, visuals shared by SLT and practitioner.</p> <p>EYP shared resources/activities and plans to develop a space for children with social communication differences which they can access for self-regulation and targeted work.</p> <p>Feedback taken from parents with question "what I'd still like to learn about".</p>	<p>EYP feels that her confidence and skill set has increased by working collaboratively with SLT and being able to share this learning with colleagues</p> <p>For the children the impact of routine and consistency of approach – parents/carers/EYPs has had a positive outcome.</p> <p>Feedback was taken at the end of the each session from parents.</p> <p>"</p> <p>Powerful for parents to hear each other's stories</p>
 <p>Our learning & next steps</p>	<p>.In response to feedback question "what I'd still like to learn about" 4 Makaton sessions were offered to the parents who attended the 2 parent sessions, 5 families attended.</p> <p>This work is being further developed. SCD sessions to be offered again next term.</p> <p>Two other colleagues are delivering a session in May 2024 to continue to share these strategies with parent/carers. Very practical session for parents/carers to learn by doing. Parents/carers are going to make their own visuals to take away from session.</p> <p>SLT are offering a parent session for those parents in Springvale whose children have social communication differences.</p> <p>include the support worker from www.NEST.Scot (empowering Ayrshire's Neurodivergent Communities) in future session</p>	
 <p>Find out more</p>	<p>Shona Fletcher – shona.fletcher@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</p>	