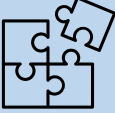








Storyboard at a Glance...


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

Communication Champions

An Early Language and Communication Improvement Story Board from East Ayrshire

|  The issue |  The team |  Our idea |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Build capacity in Early Years practitioners to support children’s speech, language and communication needs</p> <p>Create and sustain strong working relationships between SLT and Early Years Centres</p> <p>Ensure children and young people in East Ayrshire have access to information regarding language and communication and can access a range of Universal, Targeted and Individualised services at the right time</p> | <p>Speech and Language Therapy, Early Years Establishments, Early Years Corporate teams from East Ayrshire Council.</p> | <p>Create a Communication Champion network with an ‘active’ Champion in every early year’s establishment across east Ayrshire.</p> |
|  Tools & resources we used. |  What we did |  The impact |
| <p>Communication Champion ‘active’ criteria was agreed and used to track activity</p> <p>Monthly logs to track capture areas of good practice, identify challenges and respond to</p> | <p>With support from East Ayrshire Council, ECCs were invited to nominate a CC.</p> | <p>The network was previously audited yearly via questionnaires.</p> <p>Communication Champions report significant benefits to the network, commenting on:</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>individual request for support form centres</p> <p>Training packages including Hanen Learning Language and Loving It, Teacher Talk as well developing a training menu including topics such as phonological awareness, visuals, attention and listening, speech sounds</p> <p>ICAN packs were purchased and available to all ECCs, with support to use tracker</p> <p>Top tips posters to share with parents and carers</p> <p>Communication Champion pack was created (paper and digital) containing information, resources and guidance on a number of speech, language and communication topics</p> | <p>Training and information was provided to all centres joining the network</p> <p>Regular Network meetings are held and led by SLT to allow Champions to come together and share good practice</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the level of training and specialist advice available on SLC, and SLCN • the opportunities the Communication Champion work provides for supporting children whilst they are on the waiting list for Specialist SLT intervention • and for increased parental engagement and sharing practice. <p>All champions reported a positive impact on themselves as practitioners, the children and parents and the establishment as a whole.</p> <p>Previous audit has captured that the role has a positive impact on parents and carers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are more aware of the importance of good communication • Positive feedback from parents about the communication board and key messages shared by Champions • Parents commenting on improvement in their child's language and communication. |
| <p>  Our learning & next steps </p> | <p>A collaborative approach is key to ensure sustainability</p> <p>Withdrawal of funding for the Early Years SLT Team has resulted in challenges continue to support this work</p> | |

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| | <p>The network is most success when Champions nominate themselves and have an interest in language and communication</p> <p>Time and capacity is often reported as a barrier to Champions carrying out the role within their establishments</p> <p>Support from management is key to ensure that CCs are able to implement advice, strategies and initiatives within their individual centres</p> <p>Requests for Assistance from CCs are of high quality, with many containing evidence of input and support that is already in place or has been tried. This can be a strong indicator that specialist support is required form SLT.</p> |
|  Find out more | <p>Lynne McGloin Speech and Language Therapy Locality Lead East Ayrshire Lynne.mcgloin@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</p> |