








Enhanced strategic approach to supporting speech, language and communication

An Early Language and Communication Improvement Story Board from Falkirk

 The issue	 The team	 Our idea
<p>Given the level of prominence both nationally and locally of the need across Children’s Services to jointly develop strategic approaches to support the development of children’s early language and communication development, it was agreed that a cross sectorial group would be established to support joint working and planning.</p> <p>It was intended that the group membership include senior leaders and practitioners from education and health.</p>	<p>The group membership comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa McCabe (Education Service Manager, Early Years) • Fiona Anderson (Education Team Manager, Early Years) • Susannah Wakely (Senior Educational Psychologist, Early Years) • Susan McElhatton (EY Curriculum Support Officer) • Yvonne Robinson (EY Pedagogue) • Elaine Craigen (EY Teacher) • Louise Illingworth (Speech and Language Therapist) • Barbara-Anne Cleaver (Team Lead, Speech and Language Therapist) <p>The group then extended invitations to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vicki Muir (ELC Training and Improvement Officer) • Claire Lord (Principal Early Years Officer, Inchlair ELCC) • Leona Andrews (Senior Early Years Officer, Beancross Primary School) 	<p>Our aspiration, through regular meetings of colleagues in education and speech and language therapy, was to develop an enhanced strategic approach to understanding and supporting early language development across the early years in Falkirk Council.</p> <p>Using the CYPIC 2022 Theory of Change Model for Early Language and Development as the foundation to our discussions, we planned to explore strategic themes around learning interactions, the environment and planned and prioritised opportunities. By examining each of the secondary drivers we sought to identify best practice in Falkirk and how to scale and spread this to ensure the greatest impact across the sector through planned approaches to CLPL.</p>

ELC Class)		
 Tools & resources we used.	 What we did	 The impact
<p>Engaging in collaborative dialogues, interactive sessions, and fostering interpersonal connections was the key resource for maximizing productivity and innovation.</p> <p>Based on the CYPIC 2022 Theory of Change Model for Early Language and Development, the team extended their use of improvement methodologies to adapt and gather data to extend the secondary drivers.</p>	<p>Over the past year we have met regularly and focussed on the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a shared understanding of specific SLT interventions and how teams are able to engage with these within establishments • To create a driver diagram based on CYPIC 2022 Theory of Change Model for Early Language and Development reflecting the Falkirk context • To agree core training from SLT that would be prioritised and form part of the Service Improvement Plan • To develop specific CLPL for EY Central Team. • To gather an overview of establishments with reference to engagement with SLT and EY central team, those who have achieved ACI and Communication Environment Awards, 	<p>Using the CYPIC 2022 Theory of Change Model for Early Language and Development as the foundation to our discussions, the team recognised the importance of adapting the model to reflect the Falkirk context. This included creating an additional secondary driver that highlighted the central role of partnership with parents and families. The team also created a framework for identifying data sources.</p> <p>The power of close collaborative working between education and speech and language colleagues has proven to have had the greatest impact on developing joint strategic approaches to supporting early language development within Falkirk early years setting.</p>
 Our learning & next steps	<p>Our learning: This learning experience was characterised by the synergy between educators and speech and language therapists, showcasing the power of collaborative teamwork. Our next steps are to continue to build on this collaborative work and further develop strategic approaches to the support and development of children’s early language, development</p>	



Find out more

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