

Early Language and Communication Project

Storyboard at a Glance		
☐ Families ☐ Environment ☑ Workforce ☐ Identification ☐ Intervention	⊠ Universal □ Targeted	

An Early Language and Communication Improvement Story Board from Inverclyde

ELC Practitioner confidence and tracking of SLC

The issue	The team	Our idea	
Wide spread SLCN demand Lack of confidence in supporting SLCN within Early Years before SLT referral	Speech & Language Therapy Early Years Quality Improvement Manager Early Years Practitioners Management across teams	To provide an evidence-based intervention at the universal/targeted level to address early concerns around language & communication development where specialist intervention was not yet warranted To provide consistent approach to screening SLC and SLC supports in Early Years To increase staff confidence in supporting SLCN within Early Years	
Tools & resources we used.	What we did What we did	The impact	
Early Talk Toolkit, Speech & Language UK (ICAN) – our early years staff had access to this resource already but were not using due to lack of training	Information sharing with Early Years at outset to gauge interest and develop plans Gathered baseline (staff questionnaire) Delivered training to ELC Deputes, (two cohorts) who then dispersed to own teams SLT follow on visits for support, coaching and practical workshop Currently considering next steps for embedding & gathering outcome data	We are currently in process of gathering outcome data to fully review progress to date. However, our discussions & feedback from staff are highlighting the following; Consistent approach that SLT can recommend/signpost across authority Increased staff confidence to provide support before SLT referral within Early Years Improvement in quality of information e.g. strategies/support provided before SLT referral and developmental levels	
Our learning & next steps	Standalone training not effective, planning for follow-up visits supported problem solving and planning for each individual nursery Joint training session (SLT & Education Quality Improvement Manager) very beneficial, collaborative and "top down" approach has more impact Collaboration means sending "consistent messages", taking other ELC pressures and expectations into considerations Involving Early Years staff from outset supported better shared understanding of what we were trying to achieve and expectations		
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