









Storyboard at a Glance...

<input type="checkbox"/> Families	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Universal
<input type="checkbox"/> Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted
<input type="checkbox"/> Workforce	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identification	
<input type="checkbox"/> Intervention	

Planning, Assessing and Tracking the development of 2 year-olds

An Early Language and Communication Improvement Story Board from Falkirk

 The issue	 The team	 Our idea
<p>The Service Manager for Early Years had identified a need to standardise the approach to support our 2-year-olds to meet their needs and enable practitioners to add value to their learning with a particular focus on children's early language development and social and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>There was an inconsistent approach across Falkirk's ELC settings in planning, assessing, and tracking the learning and development of 2-year-olds.</p> <p>We wanted to build on children's experiences and add value to Realising the Ambition while being aware of the needs of each child's individual development.</p>	<p>Susannah Wakely (Senior Educational Psychologist- Early Years) and Vicki Muir (ELC Training and Improvement Officer) were lead officers within this project.</p> <p>A Task and Finish Group was set-up involving Early Years staff at all levels.</p> <p>Representation included: Head of Centre, Principal Early Years officers, Senior Early Years Officers, Central Team Teacher, Early Years Pedagogue, and Lead Practitioner representation from One Parent Families Scotland.</p> <p>Three pilot settings were identified to act as early adopters of the new approach.</p>	<p>To cocreate with practitioners an approach which builds upon existing practices to enhance the development of two-year-old children, with a particular focus on early language development and social and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>We aimed to produce an approach which would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • universal promoting inclusive practice. • Designed to complement practitioner's knowledge, skills and experience. • Built on existing good practice within ELC settings for 2-year-olds within Falkirk. • Aligned with Falkirk's vision and pedagogical approach. <p>Through our own research, we concluded that the CIRCLE Early Years' Framework would support us achieve consistency in planning, assessing, and tracking 2-year-olds learning and development.</p> <p>We choose this framework because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is built on research and evidence-current edition was revised in 2017. • It promotes the use of a shared language around key areas that are known to support and challenge children's development and learning (environment, routines, motivation and skills-motor, communication, thinking and relationships). • It provides strategies of a playful nature and promotes learning through play. <p>It provides practical, stage appropriate strategies that help practitioners, parents and carers to work together and share ideas to support children's learning and wellbeing.</p>

 Tools & resources we used.	 What we did	 The impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Up, up and Away! Circle Early Years' Framework,' CIRCLE Collaboration @2011 Revised 2017. 100% of practitioners currently working with 2-year-olds, Head of Centres, PEYOs and the Central Team were gifted a printed copy of Up, Up and Away document. • Realising the Ambition- 'Being Me,' 2020. • Quality Framework for Early Learning and Childcare 2022. • Falkirk Audit Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early Level Interactions audit - Early Level Spaces audit - Early Level Experiences audit. • Falkirk's approach to personal planning – What matters to me. • Leuven Wellbeing and Involvement Scales. • GIRFEC Practitioner Pages • Forth Valley Speech and Language Therapy resources and YouTube channel. • Pre-birth to 3 multimedia resource. 	<p>March 2023, we established the Task and Finish Group (project steering group) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review our current approaches for 2-year-olds. • Look in depth at the Circle Early Years' framework and decide which aspects of this framework would build on what we were already doing. • Identify the pilot settings. • Meet at key points of the project to assess progress and identify areas for further improvement. <p>September-December 2023, we worked with 3 Pilot Settings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial the tools used within the approach and to evaluate their effectiveness. • Identify training needs for the staff group. • Begin to embed the approach within their current practices and in so doing amend and develop the approach. <p>January 2024, we designed a Training and Development Offer to roll out the approach to all settings with 2 -year-olds. The offer included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch event for leaders. • training sessions for practitioners working with 2-year-olds. • Reconnection and practice sharing events where early adopters facilitated open door events showcasing the implementation of this approach across their settings. • A system of ongoing evaluation through existing senior leader and practitioner networks. 	<p>We are at the early stages of gathering impact data as training and development is ongoing. Currently, our focus is on building the confidence of leaders and practitioners in the approach.</p> <p>At April 2024, we know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All (11/11) of Falkirk's ELC Centres with 2-year-olds have attended the launch of new guidance 'Falkirk's Approach in supporting our youngest learners' incorporating the Circle Early Years' Framework 'Up, Up and Away.' One Parent Families Scotland and representation from the ASN Service were also included in this training event. • 83 SEYOs and EYOs participated in the initial launch event/training. • 26 practitioners attended the first open door reconstructor event and evaluation data is being collated from this event. <p>Impact will be measured throughout session 2024-2025 through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing evaluation meetings with the pilot settings. • Gathering data on staff confidence to implement the approach in their setting at a leadership and practitioner level.
 Our learning & next steps	<p>Our Learning: The impact of involving practitioners right from the beginning of the development to co-create the approach. As a result, practitioners at all levels are invested in the approach.</p> <p>Taking our time- pacing the implementation to allow for deep engagement of practitioners, allow questioning and dialogue to support readiness and confidence.</p> <p>Next Steps: To fully embed the approach in all settings with 2-year-olds, learning from the pilot settings. To design and implement methods for collecting data on the impact of the approach on children's early language development and social, emotional wellbeing.</p>	
 Find out more	<p>Vicki Muir: vicki.muir@falkirk.gov.uk</p> <p>Susannah Wakely: susannah.wakely@falkirk.gov.uk</p>	

