

2011 - the National Year of Communication – ‘Hello’

Speech, language and communication supports every aspect of what we do in life. Communication is a skill that can be learned, developed and improved upon.

‘Hello’ is a year long campaign which aims to help all children and young people in Birmingham and across the country live life to the full by increasing understanding and the importance of good communication skills.

‘Hello’ will help parents and practitioners to understand:

- how communication develops
- how to recognise if a child is struggling
- where to go for help and support

There is a range of information and resources for parents and practitioners to access, to help build greater awareness of children’s communication milestones. These are available from www.hello.org.uk. The website also includes details of monthly themes, free resources to help support children’s communication development and find out about events that are happening in your area.

A ‘Celebrating Communication’ Conference is being held at Birmingham Botanical Gardens on 16 November 2011. For more information, please contact the Flying Start team, tel: 0121 464 0012 or email: flyingstart@birmingham.gov.uk

Useful website addresses

www.hello.org.uk - information and ideas on how to get involved and obtain free resources. Use the Hello calendar to provide ideas on the focus for each month.

www.hello.org.uk/your-stories - share your stories, pictures and video footage, demonstrating how you support children and young people to develop their communication skills.

www.talkingpoint.org.uk

www.literacytrust.org.uk

www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk

Information about current speech, language and communication initiatives in Birmingham

Talk To Your Baby

Talking is one of the most important skills your child will learn. The more you talk with and listen to your baby, the more you will help them learn to communicate. This will assist your baby in developing good relationships and being a confident and happy child.

For more information visit: www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk/home

To request your copy of the Birmingham Speech, Language and Communication Strategy email: flyingstart@birmingham.gov.uk .

Achieving Excellence in Speech, Language and Communication Course, level 2

Through the Birmingham Tune into Babies, Children and Families programme, 'CLLD programme; Letters and Sounds Phase One' and involvement in the Every Child a Talker programme, a multi-agency team have developed a three day course that builds on the effective aspects of these programmes.

This course aims to:

- Raise practitioners / professionals' skills, knowledge and understanding of Speech, Language and Communication.
- Raise children's achievement in early language.
- Increase parental understanding and involvement in their child's language development.

The course covers six modules over three days and the topics explored are:

- The role of the adult, brain development and attachment.
- Enabling environment
- Child development
- Speech, Language and Communication in practice
- Bilingual language learning
- Working with Parents to share Speech, Language and Communication Strategies

For more information or dates of training available, please email: flyingstart@birmingham.gov.uk or call tel: 0121 464 0012.

Chatterbags

Chatterbags are a tool to aid speech, language and communication through shared play. They are for parents / carers to share with their children, supported by practitioners giving key messages.

There are six Chatterbags available to cover six stages of language development and a guidance booklet to support practice and share ideas.

For more information, contact Flying Start on tel: 0121 464 0012 or email: flyingstart@birmingham.gov.uk.

Languageland

Developed by Angela Wright, Speech and Language Therapist in Newcastle-under-Lyme PCT, Languageland aims to promote language development and communication skills in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Through regular structured group sessions, Languageland targets the skills of listening and memory, vocabulary, turn taking and using language. Languageland is primarily for nursery and reception age children with a moderate language delay. The programme can also be successfully adapted for Year 1 children with more severely delayed language.

Groups are run by school staff once or twice per week for 20 minutes. Time is also allocated for planning, preparation and recording. A package of supporting resources to print and laminate and information on running Languageland groups is available on CD from Black Sheep Press.

For further information contact Birmingham Children's Community Speech and Language Therapy Service – childrens.slt@sbpct.nhs.uk.

Communication Friendly Schools Package

In the Autumn term there will be a joint delivery of a training package, developed by Speech & Language Therapy Services and the Early Intervention & Inclusion Team. This will address the needs of SLCN pupils within mainstream settings. The training will be piloted in one secondary and one primary setting in each of the four areas across the cit and will be available as a traded package from April 2012. For more information, please contact Jayne Holloway on jayne.holloway@birmingham.gov.uk, tel: 0121 303 8288.

First Steps

First Steps training and resources are developmentally based and cater for the needs of children of all ages and ranges of ability.

Strategies for working with the whole class and for differentiating group work are offered to help manage literacy teaching appropriate for each child. The strategies can also be used with many reading and writing materials already in schools.

Oracy (1st edition) and First Steps second Edition Speaking and Listening
The resource is based around a map of development, which identifies seven phases of speaking and listening: beginning; early; exploratory; consolidating; conventional; Proficient; advanced.

These phases do not relate to any particular age or level but the map and its associated activities and strategies are usually used to support needs across all primary phases.

Tactical Teaching

The Tactical Teaching resources are designed for subject teachers at secondary level to support their students in developing the literacy and communication skills that will allow them to develop and articulate a deeper understanding of each subject area.

The one day teacher course consists of three two hour workshops:

Session one explores the strategies effective listeners use and expands teachers' repertoire of tactical teaching and learning activities that support students as they practise these strategies. Participants encounter over a dozen innovative ways of exploring learning area subject matter.

Session two is focused upon the strategies we use when we speak effectively. It helps teachers expand their repertoire of tactical teaching and learning activities that encourage students to use talk as a powerful tool of both thought and expression.

Session three highlights the value of note-taking and note-making for speaking and listening in a wide variety of settings. It unravels the mystery of why most students struggle with maximising note-taking and note-making, providing teachers and students with strategic ways of organising and recording their thoughts.

Both of these resources were used with targeted schools across Birmingham in an Action for Inclusion project that was formulated as part of the citywide response to meeting the needs of students with SLCN.

For more information visit info@steps-pd.co.uk or call tel: 01793 787930 or speak to your PSS teacher.