

SureStart

Speech Language Communication News

May 2021

SureStart



Partnership working
is at the root of
what makes Sure Start work

#SureStartWorks

Welcome

Welcome to the May 2021 issue of Sure Start Speech Language Communication News. Over the following pages you will be able to read about, watch and listen to the areas of ongoing development in the world of the Regional Sure Start Speech Language Communication Programme.



REGIONAL SURE START SLC PROGRAMME 2021-2024 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The strategic plan for the next phase of the Regional SS SLC programme was published on 1 April 2021.

There are 6 high level outcomes which reflect cross-cutting, joined up approaches and aspirations, with strategic alignment with other policy and practice areas.

Each outcome has a single overarching objective. Actions and activities relating to these are in the full plan.

Outcomes



Regional Sure Start Speech Language Communication Programme 2021-2024 Development Plan

Speaking Tetun at home campaign

This ground breaking project was shared at the April Regional Development Group meeting. It demonstrates how the team, working closely with the Project SLT, have addressed the challenges of supporting the unique needs the East Timorese community by understanding their history, culture and aspirations for their children and their thinking around parenting and bilingualism. Click on the image to view the powerpoint. Click the button to view the video on FaceBook.

Watch video on FB



Speaking Tetun at Home Campaign

Dungannon and Coalisland Sure Start
2019 - Present

East Belfast Sure Start (EBSS) parental insights

This second cutting edge initiative, in collaboration with Save the Children's Wonder Words project, was shared at the April Regional Development Group meeting. Co-production is also at the heart of this project, with local solution-based approaches of professionals working outside their comfort zones. Trusted intermediaries and their relationship with the family is a critical basis for change- parents listen to people that they trust and don't feel judged by. The slide below reflects the actual language of the parents.

[Read summary](#)



Connecting with my child brings me joy, especially knowing that I made it happen

Please don't add to my burden or make me feel judged

Be helpful or bugger off

Giving my child the best start in life is massively important to me

Teach me something that makes it easier to get through the day

'This is who I am'



SS SLC MONITORING IN DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR 2-3YOS

In response to the Covid 19 pandemic, the closure of all DPf23YO settings prevented the completion of the Spring 2020 Wellcomm screen. This presented the unique opportunity to explore the Hanen Communication & Language Stages model and Bilingual Language Profile as alternative indicators of SLC progress. Click on the button to see the full presentation from the working group to key internal stakeholders. It explains how the challenges of extracting information to illustrate the SLC progress of children has been met during the pandemic and includes the learning and our proposed way forward. Click on the image to view the report card.

[Link to full presentation](#)



Expected Sure Start Policy Outcome – Improved Language Skills

Research tells us a lot about how Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) can impact on the rest of a child's life.



At two years old, children's understanding and use of vocabulary as well as their use of 2-3 word sentences predicts their performance when they begin primary school. Roulstone 2011

Without effective help a third of children with speech, language and communication difficulties need treatment for mental health problems in adult life. Clegg et al. 1999

Low income children lag behind their high income counterparts at school entry by sixteen months in vocabulary. The gap in language is very much larger than gaps in other cognitive skills. Waldfoegel and Washbrook, 2010

Vocabulary difficulties at age 5 are significantly associated with poor literacy, mental health and employment outcomes at age 34. Law, J., Rush, R., Schoon, I. and Parsons, S. (2009).

86-90% of young offenders have low language skills, with 46-67% of these being in the poor or very poor range. Bryan et al 2006

38 Sure Start projects deliver services in the top 25% most deprived ward areas in Northern Ireland



In 2019/20 there were 1780 children in 147 DPf2-3YO



SLC Support in Sure start DPf2-3YO aims to:

- Support parents and staff to provide language rich environments
- Support early identification of SLC need
- Ensure timely access to appropriate additional support

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Click on the image below to view the video of Sure Start SLT Lead Anne McKee talking about the importance of relationships to infant mental health and communication development.

The Chatting Time Series of resources can also be accessed by the button below.

Chatting Time resources



BBC TINY HAPPY PEOPLE

BBC THP Ambassadors & NI THP Family

Sure Start continues to partner with BBC Tiny Happy People.

Click on the first image on the right to take you to the main site.

Also learn how Speech Language Communication experts rubbed shoulders with the celebrity parents to share best science-backed tips by clicking on the second image.

Meet the NI THP Family by clicking on the bottom image.





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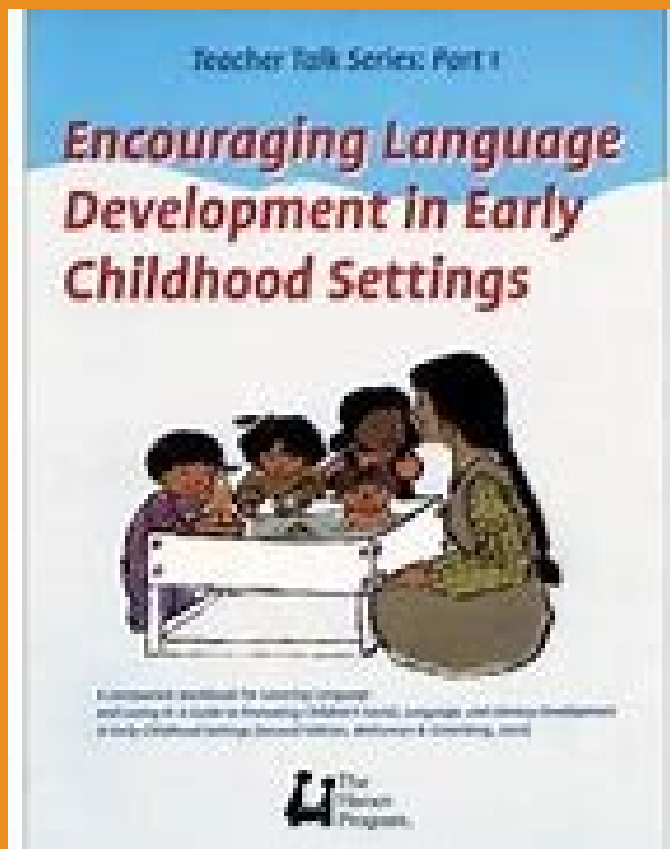
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'Your words build their world'

Hanen Online Teacher Talk Training

Following completion of all 3 Hanen Online Teacher Talk workshops the full evaluation report can be read by clicking on the image below. Or email shima.choudhury@hscni.net for a pdf copy.



THEMES FOR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF HANEN

Feedback fell into the three themes of training, embedding and parental involvement as illustrated below.

These tie into the recently updated Hanen Training Strategy. Email Shima.choudhury@hscni.net if you would like a copy.

Training Embedding Parents

Upskill all early years practitioners – it's practitioners, not children – that need to change. Practitioners will bring out the best in the children.

Embedding the Hanen principles in every aspect of project life from observations, to contact, to group work, to home visits

Put action plan on every child's file- parent workshops

Family Support Staff, (and all staff should have access to this training) – it dovetails with the Out Come Star, and can enable FSW staff to support parents within the home

Observation-are we seeing these principles coming through in assessments, observation records, interactions

Encourage parents to access training by publicising Hanen on notice boards, parent meetings, open days, and events. Posters, get togethers, opportunity for discussion/chat

Training for all practitioners within Projects and opportunities for parents too Staff Profiles – embedding Hanen at all levels of staff

Utilising team meetings to regularly review-agenda items

Make Hanen training available for parents and families Sharing strategies with parents

Ongoing cycle of reflection on how the principles are being applied

Joint planning between SLTs/ELCs

Regional Digital Resources Directory

Sure Start SLTs have contributed to this regional work. See below for more information on an upcoming webinar. The recording will be made available on the website for viewing at a later date. Click the image below for more information on Digital Health and Care Northern Ireland - HSCB (hscni.net).



On 4 June 1.00pm, Regional AHP e-health Professional Advisor Pippa McCabe will provide some insights into to how AHPs have embraced digital and share some transferable learning from the work to date.



SS SLC Support Workers Regional Focus Group

The next meeting of the NI group is scheduled for September 2021. To further inform the strategic direction, Breege McCaughey, Western Sure Start SLT Lead is on the supporting author group of the RCSLT Support worker project. Click on the [link](#) on the image below for more information.

HELP KIDS TALK (HKT)

Funded by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is a community wide project which focuses on early years support and raising awareness of the importance of speech, language, and communication. Sure Start projects in South Eastern area work very closely with HKT but the information and webinars can be accessed by parents or practitioners across Northern Ireland. If you are part of the SS community and to avoid duplication, please chat with your project SLT first before enrolling on the HKT basic awareness webinars on offer here: <https://view.pagetiger.com/basic-awareness-webinar-training-dates>.

Go to HKT FaceBook page



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