



The Language Lead Approach

Nottingham City Council and Notts Health Care Trust

An evidence-informed approach to supporting the development of speech, language and communication (SLC) in Early Years (EY) settings. The programme has been designed by drawing on high-quality evidence and the expertise of the team at Nottingham City Council EY SEND, EY Educational Psychologists (EPs) and EYs teams, in collaboration with experienced Language Leads (LLs) and Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs).

What is the aim?

The Language Lead Approach enhances the offer of SLC support within settings as a significant opportunity for early intervention, both for children with speech, language and communication needs (SCLN) and the wider EY population. The Language Lead Approach is based on an interactional pedagogy and the intervention is carried out within typical EYFS provision.

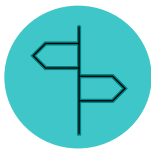


What will the programme involve?

We are looking for 12 EYFS settings/schools to deliver the programme and provide feedback for future development. All EYFS settings/schools who participate will receive £2,000 as an incentive for their involvement.

The programme is taking place from September 2024 to December 2024 and includes:

- Initial 1.5-hour twilight orientation session to be attended by the nominated LL and a senior lead from the setting. Following this, LLs must attend 4 half day training sessions at fortnightly intervals and arrange a coaching visit to their setting. Two additional workshops to support implementation will also be offered.
- Participants will learn interactional strategies to support the development of SLC in their settings. They will learn tools to cascade this learning to their peers and be able to model at least two of the interactional strategies. Participants will be able to identify those children most at risk of having poor interactions and therefore SLC development and have developed means of ensuring that these children are specifically targeted during sessions.
- There is an expectation that LLs will complete intersessional tasks, including reflective videos during delivery.
- During delivery, LL, senior leads and EYPs will be required to take part in a small number of feedback activities (e.g. surveys and group discussions) to help us understand your experiences of implementing the programme
- A full privacy notice and other relevant data protection information will be made available for you to review prior to signing a memorandum of understanding



How will participants be supported to deliver the programme?

- Training to support an interactional pedagogy will be offered and each LL will receive a copy of Learning Language and Loving It™ to support this learning. Additional training, coaching and workshop will be offered to support implementation of the programme within settings using solution focussed tools and models of behaviour change.



What do we hope the programme will offer?

- **For practitioners/teachers:** knowledge and understanding about the importance to SLC development of quality interactions and the ability to deliver these within typical practice.
- **For children/pupils:** all children, including those at risk of SLCN will be included in quality interactions tailored to their needs on a daily basis.



Key dates

- **Initial training session** – Monday 9th September 3.30 -5.00 (online)
- **Delivery starts in settings** – W/B 9th September
- **Follow-up training:** Tuesday 10th September, Tuesday 17th September, Tuesday 1st October, Tuesday 15th October, (in person – Nottingham Central Library)
- **Support session(s) or check-ins with teachers/practitioners:** Tuesday 12th November, and Tuesday 3rd December,
- **Coaching visit** (as arranged by participant, in person)
- **Delivery ends** – 3rd December

Next steps

Please register your interest in the programme by July 5th by completing this [short form](#) If you have any questions, contact joanna.hill@nottinghamcity.gov.uk