



Newsletter September 2023

Speech, Language & Communication Special Edition

SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION NEWSLETTER

We wanted to start the Autumn term with our third edition of the speech, language and communication newsletter.

In this edition, we have more information about our Early Talk for York conference and the new report from Speech and language UK – Listening to unheard children.

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EARLY TALK FOR YORK

Early Talk for York continues to grow and improve outcomes for children across our city.

The programme has been nominated for two awards this year which is testament to the excellent work going on across the early years sector in York. If you're not already working at Step 3 of the approach, there is a subsidised offer and support available to help you achieve this. Go to [Early Talk For York](#) for more information and if you'd like to take part then fill in the [Expression of interest](#) form. The next cohort starts January 2024.



You're invited to join us for the inaugural Early Talk for York Conference on Tuesday 14th November, The Marriott Hotel, Tadcaster Road, York, YO24 1QQ 08:30am - 12:00pm

In response to your feedback the conference will include:

- Supporting children with English as an additional language led by NALDIC (The National Association for Language Development in the Curriculum)
- Using Makaton with early years aged children led by a local Makaton tutor
- Working alongside parents featuring a variety of expertise from across York

We will be joined by colleagues from across York's diverse early years sector and it will be a great opportunity for new learning, to network and celebrate York's many strengths. **Reserve your place by completing this [e-booking form](#)** [Back to top](#)

[WellComm](#) the complete speech and language toolkit, from screening to intervention is part of the Early Talk for York – Step 1 approach. If you have recently purchased a toolkit or have not accessed the training yet. Please see the dates below for this terms training and workshops.

New to Wellcomm sessions:

- Thursday 5th October 6:30-7:30pm
- Thursday 26th October 4-5pm
- Monday 13th November 10-11am
- Wednesday 6th December 3-4pm

please note these sessions will be delivered virtually via zoom.

To book on please email both Early Talk for York Specialist Speech and Language therapists [Eve Ibbotson](#) and [Hannah Thomas](#).

Workshops:

- Thursday 28th September 4-5pm (virtually) - Areas of SLC not covered by the WellComm.
- Monday 23rd October 5-6pm (virtually) - Responding to identified needs using the Big Book of Ideas.

If you are interested in joining us for the series of workshops please contact etfy@york.gov.uk

Childminders can borrow a copy of the WellComm toolkit by visiting your [local library](#). The toolkit can be loaned for 3 weeks and renewed if necessary. The library can also request a toolkit from another library if theirs is already on loan. You can also contact settings in your local partnership to request use of their toolkits.

You can also be part of the 'WellComm Assessment data return'. This helps provide a city wide picture of children's speech, language and communication needs.

Assessment data can be returned to us each year between 1st October and 31st January. Please contact etfy@york.gov.uk if you would like more information on returning your data securely to us.

Reminder:

- Please see the link to [FAQ's](#) for more information about WellComm
- You will need to screen all early year's children annually in the autumn term and share the headline outcome of the screen for all children (Red, Amber, Green) with the Local Authority via our process.
- Findings from screening may help in accessing additional support via the Speech, Language and Communication [Hub](#)

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Would you like ...

- Signposting to relevant resources?
- Peer to peer support?
- Access to an Eiklan / SLC trained colleague?
- To visit a communication friendly setting?
- A focused discussion on speech, language and communication needs for identified children.
- Support to get started with your WellComm Toolkit?



The Speech, Language and Communication [Hub](#) can offer all of this.

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TRAINING

The NHS York and Scarborough teaching hospital is offering a '**Speech Sounds Workshop**'. The course is free and suitable for parents/carers and professionals who live/work in the York, Selby, Scarborough, Whitby or Ryedale area.

The course gives a brief overview of how speech sounds are made/develop and advice and strategies to consider when working with children with speech sound difficulties.

Friday 13th October 2023 9.30am – 11.00am or

Tuesday 5th December 2023 3.45pm – 5.15pm

To book a place, please email yhs-tr.childrenstherapytraining@nhs.net

Please note this is an interactive session so you will need access to a camera and microphone to participate.

There are a range of opportunities to access additional training through the Early Talk for York approach, including specific training for Childminders. The Specialist Speech and Language Therapists deliver this training. Please visit the [website](#) for future training.

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NARROWING THE GAP

- **Speech and Language UK** have recently launched their new report [Listening to unheard children](#) which reveals a shocking rise in the number of children struggling with talking and understanding words. The research shows that **1.9 million** children are struggling with talking and understanding words. That's a huge increase of 26% over the last two years. They have developed an ambitious new strategy to tackle this.

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OTHER SUPPORT

- The NSPCC [Look, Say, Sing, Play](#) campaign provides tips and hints on how to help your child's brain develop and to strengthen your bond with them. You can [Sign-up](#) to receive weekly expert tips.

- [Tiny Happy People](#) continue to develop their support and advice related to speech and language and resources for SEND with loads of inclusive videos.
- Speech and Language UK has the parents and professionals page (which includes the 30 minute telephone conversation with a trained therapist, for [Information-and-support for families](#))
- Nursery rhyme week - Over 300,000 children are already registered to join in a fantastic week of rhyming in November and we hope that you can join in too! Please click the link to [Register](#)

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CONTACTS

Please send any queries or request further information from the QI team
EYQualityimprovement@york.gov.uk Tel: 01904 555300
or email Early Talk for York etfy@york.gov.uk

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