

## Summer 2020



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### Welcome!

Hi everyone, this term's newsletter is a little later than usual - you can probably understand why!

Due to the strange world we are currently living in, all of our services have been changing and we are working on the best ways to continue to support you all.

We are all very aware, that while many of our young children will be thriving in their home environments, we also have lots of our little ones for whom the gap between their development and that of their peers may be widening at this time. This means the work you are all doing is more important than ever! I have been so impressed with all the amazing work I have been hearing about from settings and how you are supporting the families you work with while they are at home.

We know how hard it is to make plans at the moment with so many uncertainties; however if there is any support you need please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Speech and Language Therapy services are still here!

While we are not currently able to see children face to face, our therapists are continuing to work with families via telephone and video consultations.

Please do continue to refer children in the usual way. Our drop-in service is currently being offered via telephone and I have attached details of this at the end of this newsletter.

I've also added some details about our new videos available to view online.

### Meet our team...

### Meet one of our Speech and Language Therapists:

**Sophie Danvers**

Hello! My name is Sophie and I work in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre, in our Early Years, SLCN and Neurodevelopmental Pathway Teams. I love working with children with social communication difficulties. My top tip would be to use visual resources! One example may include a visual timetable. Place symbols representing your activities for the day onto a Velcro strip. Once you have completed the activity, take off the symbol. These can help children to: establish a routine, increase independence, remove uncertainty and support the child with change. They are a great resource to implement at both home and nursery/school.



## What's happening in our Language Leads networks?

Unfortunately, we have been unable to meet in our usual cluster groups this term; we have, however, had two online video meetings and it was lovely to see your faces!!

We had some really useful discussions about how you are keeping in contact with your families, and I've included some of the ideas below.

If any of our existing Language Leads, or anyone interested in taking up this role, would like to catch up individually, or need any support, please do get in touch.

It would be great to 'meet' online again as a group, before the end of term for a catch up; if you can make either of these dates, contact me at [louise.rylance@nhs.net](mailto:louise.rylance@nhs.net) and I will send you an invitation to join the meeting.

**Monday 6th July 13:30—14:30**

**Thursday 9th July 16:00—17:00**



**The Commitment is growing!!** We are continuing to work with local Early Years Settings to support them with the Early Years Commitment project, devised by [The Communication Trust](#). The project is a fantastic way to take an objective look at your setting as a whole; it helps you to identify areas of great practise as well as where things can be enhanced.

We are now at a point where we need to look at how well this project has worked so far; I will be contacting those settings who began the process in the academic year 2018/19 to complete a review of your original audit so that we can record all the good work that has happened in that time!

If you need any support with your action plan, do let me know and I can arrange to go through it with you via phone or video call.

I'm hoping we will also soon be starting a pilot of this project with some of our local childminders too—watch this space!

Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved. We can provide you with support to review how things are going and help you develop an achievable action plan to take forward.



## Supporting the home learning environment

If you've been accessing our newsletters over the last year, you'll know we have been working hard to support local practitioners to promote a positive communication environment at home through engagement with families. At this time, this is more important than ever.

Many of you are being creative in finding ways to keep in touch with our families, from 'Zoom' story time/rhyme time sessions, to delivering activities to homes. Many of you are using social media, setting up new closed Facebook or WhatsApp groups to encourage families to share ideas.

A common theme, was keeping personal contact to allow children to see/hear the staff and nursery environments, whether by sending photo books home with pictures of staff, or reading stories via Zoom or Facebook from the book corner in nursery. These are great ideas which will help children with the transition back to settings as the time comes.

There are lots of great online resources to use too—we love the BBC's Tiny Happy People website, it's full of ideas and information [www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people](http://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people)

If you have any other great ideas to share, please get in touch, or post on our practitioners Facebook page: [Fylde and Wyre Early Language](#).

## Training

While we have been unable to offer our usual programme of face to face training this term, we will be working towards getting this up and running again in the Autumn—whether this will be face to face or online will obviously depend how the situation progresses.



I am able to offer our popular Hanen workshops online, as well as training for the ICAN Early Talk Boost programme so keep an eye on your emails for more information, or let me know if you would be interested in accessing these.



Speech, Language and  
Communication Framework

Those of you have been involved in our Language Lead's groups will be aware of the 'Speech, Language and Communication Framework' developed by the Communication Trust.

The framework is a way of reviewing your knowledge around speech, language and communication and identifying any areas for your professional development.

We are offering online workshops to help you through the framework and these are open to any practitioners in Fylde and Wyre. Each level of the framework has 10 'strands' and we will work through a few of these in each of the online sessions. Depending on your existing level of knowledge, you can choose to access the 'Universal' level or 'Enhanced'. If you're not sure, I would recommend starting with Universal and move on to Enhanced once that is completed

**If you would like to access any of these sessions, let me know at: [Louise.rylance@nhs.net](mailto:Louise.rylance@nhs.net) and I will send you a link to access them. All sessions will start at 15:30 and will last approximately an hour.**

### Universal Level

Strands 1-3 4th June or 16th June

Strands 4-6 9th June or 7th July

Strands 7-10 1st July or 13th July

### Enhanced Level

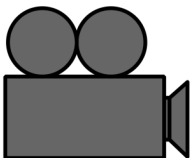
Strands 1-3 8th June or 18th June

Strands 4-6 10th June or 8th July

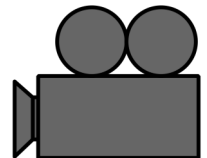
Strands 7-10 2nd July or 22nd July

### Developing you personal development plan (any level)

6th July or 20th July



## SLTs on video!



Members of our team have been busy creating some videos full of useful tips for parents or practitioners. You can find them on our [website](#) and also our [Facebook page](#).

[Sophie tells you a little about our new ways of working](#)

[Some simple top tips from Flora](#)

We've had lots of call to our drop in service recently, from parents with concerns around stammering, [here is some useful information from Amy:](#)

Using visual supports is a great way to support attention and understanding—[here Kathryn talks through how to use 'I'm working for....' charts:](#)



## Speech & Language Therapy Telephone Drop In Service



Due to Covid-19, we are now offering a temporary telephone drop in service to replace our usual drop in clinics. This will take place until we are able to run our usual clinics again. These are an opportunity for parents to discuss their concerns about their child's communication with one of our Speech & Language Therapists. Please continue to use the following guidance to help you decide whether to complete a referral or support parents access our telephone drop in service.

Telephone Drop In Service	Refer a child to speech and language therapy
Mild speech sound concerns	Significant concerns with speech sounds
Mild - moderate Language Delay	Significant concerns with use and understanding of language
Stammering – children up to age 7	Social skills / Interaction
Quality of voice	Stammering – 8 years +
Attention and listening	Attention and listening and Auditory Processing

To access the telephone drop in service, please support parents to either:

> Email our Admin Team on: [bfwh.admin.paediatrictherapy@nhs.net](mailto:bfwh.admin.paediatrictherapy@nhs.net)

With the subject 'DROP IN'

Include their child's name, date of birth and a contact telephone number

OR

> Telephone our Admin Team on: 01253 951101

A Duty SLT will then be in contact to have a chat with parents about their concerns and will offer advice

# Speech & Language Therapy

## Telephone Drop In Service

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Do you have concerns about any of the following with your child?

Mild difficulties with their use of words

Attention & listening skills

Stammering



Difficulties with their understanding of words

Mild difficulties with their speech sounds

Voice quality

If so, parents can:

> Email our Admin Team on: [bfwh.admin.paediatrictherapy@nhs.net](mailto:bfwh.admin.paediatrictherapy@nhs.net)

With the subject 'DROP IN'

Include your child's name, date of birth and a contact telephone number

OR

> Telephone our Admin Team on: 01253 951101 and leave a message

A Speech & Language Therapist will then be in contact to discuss your concerns and will offer advice