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Communication Friendly Settings for Early years - video transcript

A very warm welcome to this short clip about the EEF project to evaluate **Elklan's Communication Friendly Settings Programme for Early years (or CFS)**.

As part of the Department of Education's Early Years Recovery Programme, Northern Lights Stronger Practice Hub (SPH) in the North East and Bright Futures SPH in the North West and the EEF are working together to fund Early Years settings' access to Elklan's Communication Friendly Settings Programme.

Elklan's Communication Friendly Settings, Early years (or CFS) has two parts:

- Part 1: In-depth training for two practitioners per setting so that they have enhanced knowledge about SLC development and how to support all children with their communication development but particularly those who have, or are at risk of having, SLCN. These practitioners become Lead Communication Practitioners (LCPs).
- Part 2: To create a more communication friendly setting, the LCPs cascade five short training sessions to all staff. The staff then work as a team implementing small changes so that the setting environment and all adult child interactions support children's SLC.

The two elements will run concurrently. A copy of the timeline can be found on the webpage. This means there is a lot to do and it is really important that everyone involved knows the time that they need to commit so I'm going to outline the essential information here.



Part 1: Speech and Language Support for 3-5s course for two practitioners (LCPs). This involves three elements:

- The first is completing 10 interactive self-study eLearning sessions. Each will take approximately one hour but can be done at the practitioner's ownpace at a time that suits them. However an e-learning session must be completed every week for 10 weeks before the practitioner attends the live webinar linked to that e-learning session.
- The second is attending a live group webinar involves one hour with an Elklan Tutor (four are extended to cover Part 2 (CFS) but this will be explained in a minute). These are practical, interactive webinars so the LCPs can discuss the implementation of strategies and share experiences in consistent small groups of about 10. This means committing to attend at the same time on the same day for ten weeks (excluding half-terms and holidays and stopping in early December). Once the programme starts LCPs will only be able to swap live webinar groups if there are exceptional circumstances. It is really important that the LCPs and setting managers understand this.
- The third element is the LCPs completing Learning Log tasks to consolidate and demonstrate learning. This involves an online learning log and the LCPs can gain a level 3 accreditation. Implementing planned activities might take an hour a week and writing up the Learning Log will take up to another hour a week. This must be completed on a weekly basis so that the workload is manageable and the LCPs benefit from the marking feedback given by their Elklan tutor.

Summary of the three 3-5s course elements:

1. Completing an interactive self-study e-learning session
2. Attending a live group webinar
3. Writing up the Learning Log

All the activity across the three elements will take each LCP a minimum of 4 hours a week for 10 weeks.

Nationally accredited by Elklan and OCN London



Part 2: The CFS element which involves the whole staff team

- The LCPs cascade five one-hour Communication Counts sessions to the whole setting staff.
- The LCPs will receive a hard copy manual and powerpoint presentations and each session is delivered after the LCP has covered the information through their 3-5s course.
- All setting staff must attend the Communication Counts sessions. However, staff will have access to online sessions if they are unable to attend the face-to-face training but they must still discuss each session with an LCP for a minimum of 20 minutes.
- The LCPs will support the whole staff team to make changes to their environment and their interactions with children to ensure the whole setting supports children's SLC.
- All staff will have tasks ('Challenges') to complete between the training sessions and all staff must complete five 10 minute e-questionnaires relating to each challenge.
- A link to the e-questionnaires will be emailed to all members of staff by their LCPs. This means all staff need access to a computer or laptop.
- It is helpful if the LCPs have a certain amount of IT skills and confidence for the smooth running of the programme.
- The LCPs use a compiled questionnaire report for each 'Challenge' to complete their Level 4 Learning Log and the setting can only achieve accreditation if each e-questionnaire is completed by 80% of the staff team.

All of this activity will take each member of staff at the setting an average of an hour a week for 10 weeks. It is therefore really important that the whole team are aware of this commitment and are given time to fully engage in the programme. This means time to attend the training sessions, implement strategies, reflect on the impact and complete the e-questionnaires.

- The LCPs who are cascading the Communication Counts training need around 30 minutes to prepare each session and an hour a couple of weeks later to update their Level 4 Learning Log.
- Four of the weekly live webinars the LCPs attend (for their 3-5s course) are extended by 1-1½ hours to share experiences about implementing the cascade training with their peers. The timeline gives the details of these extensions.

The part 2 activities will take the LCPs an additional 2-2½ hours a week in addition to their 4 hours a week completing their 3-5s course. This gives a total of 6 hours a week but this will vary depending on the extended live webinars and Level 4 Learning Log.

This is a wonderful opportunity to extend your knowledge about the development of speech, language and communication and how to support children in your setting.

You will also be able to cascade essential messages to the rest of your team so that you can work together to create a more communication friendly setting.

You will be given resources to help you and you will gain accreditation at levels 3 and 4.

All of this is fully funded by your Stronger Practice Hub.

I'm going to leave the last word to Hayley, one of our LCPs who completed the CFS programme.

Thank you.