

CASE STUDY



AMY CROWTHER,
Speech and Language Therapy
Technical Instructor

Training childcare practitioners
in supporting SLC



What is your role?

Speech and Language Therapy Technical Instructor. My work is funded through the Welsh Government's Early Years Integration Transformation Programme ('Pathfinder') for Flintshire, as part of efforts to provide Universal and Targeted SLC support in the context of workforce pressures.

What did you do?

Offered out a training package to Early Years Practitioners across non-maintained Early Entitlement settings. The package included a 3 hour online general speech, language and communication training course followed by a 1.5 hour individual face-to-face visit in the setting. The follow-up face-to-face visit includes supporting settings to further implement the strategies discussed during the online training, with children in the setting, and offers practitioners an opportunity to evaluate their own practice and highlight areas of strengths and areas of improvement in terms of SLC.

Who did you reach?

25 members of staff across 16 non-maintained Early Entitlement settings in Flintshire.

What was the impact?

- 11/24 people surveyed had not accessed any formal speech and language training prior to accessing this training package.
- 75% stated they felt confident supporting children and their families with speech, language and communication after the training compared to 17% before.
- 50% of practitioners felt very confident in identifying children with SLCNs compared to 0% before the training, and 50% of practitioners felt confident in identifying children with SLCNs compared to 33% before.

How do you feel about it?

I feel the training is being very well received and practitioners are very grateful for the input in terms of SLC. Many have expressed that this is the first formal training they have received in supporting SLC and many have commented on how simple the strategies and techniques are that we have included in the training. Some have also commented that these sessions improved staff's confidence and understanding around children's SLC, and that parents would benefit from the same training/information. I have particularly enjoyed the face-to-face element and believe this has given the practitioners an opportunity to fully embed the knowledge gained from the online training session, as well as to share conversations and ideas.

Any other comments?

I am looking forward to the next academic year when we can offer out this training package to more settings and staff and develop the training further.