

Loving Language Outcome Plan



Loving



Back &
Forth



Enjoyable



Language
Rich

Our Vision

At Indigo, we empower families to overcome poverty and its challenges through innovative, evidence and family informed learning and childcare solutions. We aim to support families and communities to break the generational cycle of poverty by improving health, wellbeing and learning, giving children the best possible start in life. We are committed to closing the attainment gap and building resilience through whole family support. As part of Indigo's vision to achieve this, Family Matters and Loving Language have been created.

The Harsh Reality

Child poverty and poor language and communication are strongly linked, with the attainment gap beginning in the early years. Evidence shows that 5 year olds with language difficulties are much more likely to struggle with learning across the school curriculum. Without support, the gap widens throughout their school years. These children are also much more likely to be unemployed or underemployed in later life as well as more likely to have mental health difficulties. Lockdowns and restrictions have restricted the opportunities and progress of all children.

Hope for the Future

However, there is very strong evidence that with early identification and intervention, the long term impact of language and communication difficulties can be greatly reduced and even prevented. We have an amazing opportunity as early years educators to equip and empower our children and families with tools to support language and communication for life.

Therefore, it is essential that the Indigo Experience involves high quality language and communication support in all interactions staff have with children within the service as well as sharing these values with our families and wider community. The Loving Language program will build on existing quality work from Team Indigo in raising attainment, inclusion, trauma informed practice and whole family support to improve the language and communication skills of all our children.



Key Messages of Loving Language

For children's wellbeing, positive relationships and for the growth of language and communication it is essential to have interactions that are:



Loving

Loving relationships are central to children's wellbeing. We know children need to feel safe and cared for to be able to explore the world around them. The securely attached child is building up an image of themselves as someone who is 'lovable and well-loved' (O'Connor, 2018). Babies and children feel safe, loved and cared for, when the adults around them are being mind-minded, responsive, supporting their needs and emotions and promoting positive, loving, nurturing relationships (from Realising the Ambition). The Loving Language programme will have Nurture principles at the centre.

Enjoyable

Enjoyable interactions in everyday routines and fun play experiences are where children learn language and communication best. When children are interested in the activity and motivated to communicate a message, they have the opportunity to learn how to take turns and use language and communication. To do this it is important for adults to follow the child's lead, include their interests and join in the play the child's way to make interactions enjoyable for the child. Interactions which are positive due to being fun and/or calming will be enjoyable for adults and children alike.



Back and Forth

Back and forth interactions means we aim for equal turn taking from everyone involved in the interaction. Studies have shown that the more children participate in back-and-forth interactions with their caregivers, the more activity they have in the part of the brain responsible for language production and processing with a strong connection between the number of turns children take in conversation and the scores they receive on language tests (Pryor, 2018; Romeo et al, 2018). The more children are involved in back-and-forth exchanges, the greater the impact on their language skills. Children need to be given opportunities to take turns in interactions appropriate to their age and stage. Pausing and creating opportunities to allow babies and young children to take a turn in the communication allows learning of intentional communication and the key early interaction skills they need as a foundation for language development. Turns children take may be looking, smiling or other facial expressions, gesturing or other body language, vocalising with sounds or babble and in time using their own words, phrases and sentences to have conversations. Opportunities for back and forth interaction can be created within all everyday routines as well as playing, sharing songs, nursery rhymes and books together.

Language Rich

Once loving, enjoyable, back and forth interactions are established, the optimum environment for language learning has been created. This is where adults can add quality language to the interaction. Highlighting language that is appropriate to the child's stage of development will increase the child's understanding and teach words and sentences they can use to express their own needs, wants, opinions and stories as they grow. Joining in with children's play, using your imagination, looking at photos together, reading books, singing songs and having conversations are just some of the ways we can have language rich interactions and use strategies we know can expand and extend children's language.



Achieving the Best for Children and Families Together

The vision is that Loving Language will be embedded in the Indigo Experience for all children and families. The Indigo Speech and Language Therapist will partner with all staff and families to support children to get the most out of interactions and language learning experiences using strategies across the environment, routines and activities at nursery and home. Professional learning opportunities will be available to use strategies that benefit all children's language and communication as well as training to identify and support children's Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). Key messages will be shared with all parents and families through posts and videos on Family, groups and events. Where parents and staff wish to access advice on how to support a particular concern, targeted support will be offered through an advice service. The learning from Loving Language will be measured and shared with the wider community to improve the language and communication outcomes of children to raise their attainment and future aspirations.

Rooted in strong relationships built on trust and respect, with raising attainment and building resilience as our drivers and directed by feedback on what is important to our children, families and Team Indigo, the 5 interlinked branches of Loving Language have been developed: Family Support, Professional Learning, Communication Friendly Environments, Identification (of SLCN) and Interventions (to support SLCN).



Colour coded pink – direct feedback from parent survey (and children themselves in talking mats)

Colour coded indigo – direct team indigo feedback

Focus Area and Outcomes	Actions	Progress Indicators
<p>Family Support</p> <p>Overarching Outcome: Indigo Families will have improved understanding and confidence supporting children’s language and communication.</p> <p>All Indigo families will have increased awareness of key messages around interaction and language and why they are important for their child now and in the future.</p> <p>All Indigo families will be able to access services to support their child’s communication at the level appropriate for them – universal, targeted and specialist.</p> <p>Increased engagement of families in accessing universal and targeted information, learning and support.</p> <p>Increased confidence levels of all Indigo families in supporting their child’s speech, language and communication</p> <p>The learning from working with Indigo families will be shared to benefit families in the wider community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share universal information about language and communication development – milestones, how to help at different stages, why it is important, key messages to support. • Development of online training resources inc info on website, posts and videos on Famly, social media. • Development of leaflets and resources including activity bags. • Signposting to NHS SLT services as appropriate. • Signposting to online and community resources. • Signposting to other parenting learning and groups as relevant • Groups with children and parents together – regular and events • Including partnership work for PEEP, Bookbug, Playgroups, Stay and Play. • Targeted training on supporting language and communication development for certain groups (e.g. language delay, Autism) • Makaton sign sharing (partner with Makaton trained nursery staff) • Develop an advice/support service Indigo families can contact if they want to discuss communication concerns with SLT offering universal and targeted advice and when to signpost to NHS SLT service – will include partnership with keyworkers, access through Famly and ‘drop in’ advice sessions at events • Develop signposting spreadsheet/resources all staff can access • Collect feedback/monitor effectiveness and make changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Carer surveys • Engagement and feedback in events/groups • Number of sessions and courses delivered • Engagement on Famly and Social Media Posts and feedback • Family Support Plans • Team Indigo feedback • Children’s feedback • Child’s communication at home checklists • Parents attendance/ engagement accessing advice service via keyworkers, Famly and ‘drop in’ SLT advice sessions

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Focus Area and Outcomes	Actions	Progress Indicators
<p>Workforce/ Professional Learning</p> <p>Overarching Outcome: Team Indigo will have improved understanding of closing the attainment gap through improved language and communication outcomes and increased confidence to support children and families to achieve this.</p> <p>All Indigo staff have a secure understanding of children’s communication, language and literacy development and why it is important</p> <p>All Indigo staff will have increased confidence identifying children’s SLC level and needs</p> <p>All staff have increased knowledge & confidence supporting general SLC and children with SLCN including setting goals and helping child achieve these goals</p> <p>All staff have understanding of when to refer children to NHS SLT service for specialist assessment and support (where cannot be met at universal or targeted level)</p> <p>Increased confidence of early years staff in supporting and engaging families in supporting their children’s communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on why communication and language is so important • Hanen Teacher Talk training • Coaching sessions, Group sessions, self reflection tools and peer support. • Typical communication development and when to be concerned/ seek advice/refer to NHS SLT • Training on specific SLCN including: • Communication Support for Autistic/ Neurodivergent Children • Speech Sound delay/disorder awareness and support • Developmental Language Disorder Awareness and Support, • Stammering Awareness and Support. • Follow up options of contacting SLT with questions (advice service) and signposting to sources of further information. • Communication Friendly Environment training and checklists including use of visuals. Explore LCFE training/accreditation • Partnership work with Attainment lead for Literacy • Makaton sign sharing and practice (partnering with Leads) • Wall display for Language and Communication • Posts/videos/leaflets on Famly for families and staff to tie in with the training topics/ reminders • Support staff to use Identification resources (see separate section) • Training/Support staff to use Interventions (see separate section) • Link possible targeted goals, strategies and activities for when a child does not meet milestones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff feedback from questionnaires and discussion groups. • Observations • Coaching sessions • Videos • Attendance, engagement and feedback from training (Indigo and wider community) • Children’s outcomes in trackers and milestone checklists

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Focus Area and Outcomes	Actions	Progress Indicators
<p>Environment</p> <p>Overarching Outcome: The early years settings will meet standards for Language and Communication friendly environment</p> <p>Children will be supported to have interactions which are loving, enjoyable, back and forth and language rich</p> <p>Children will be supported in transitions (horizontal and vertical)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with Inclusion coordinator Establish partnership with NHS GG&C SLT / Glasgow City Council LCFE work Communication friendly checklists Developing use of visuals in nursery environment Consistent rules and language around these and visuals to support - Encouraging Positive Behaviour visuals for staff fobs Makaton support Nursery routines (and consistent repetitive language within these) Together Times – children's feedback on making fun and interactive Learning Activities – indoor and outdoor (children's feedback - vast majority love outdoor play) Transitions (throughout the day - horizontal) Big transitions (like changing room, going to school – vertical) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication friendly environment checklists Staff feedback Children's feedback Observations of children Children's progress on trackers Family feedback
<p>Identification</p> <p>Overarching Outcome: Preschool children will have improved language and communication outcomes.</p> <p>Information on all children's communication will be tracked</p> <p>Most children will meet minimum language and communication milestones especially for: Room Transitions End of ante-preschool year End of preschool year</p> <p>Where children are not meeting language and communication milestones then we have understanding of their SLCN and a plan in place to support this</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication milestone trackers and observation tools for 6m, 12m, 18m, 2y, 3y, 4y, 5y. Literacy trackers for 3-5s Gather information about communication at home from families (some families have expressed specific concerns) Support staff to set goals for children with SLCN for care plans using a bank of targeted strategies Discussions through SLT Advice Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Plans Trackers Communication milestones checklists Observations of Children Staff feedback Family feedback Communication at home checklists Children/young people's feedback

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Focus Area and Outcomes	Actions	Progress Indicators
<p>Intervention</p> <p>Overarching Outcome: Preschool children will have improved language and communication outcomes.</p> <p>Universal interventions will be in place for supporting language and communication of all children</p> <p>Targeted interventions will be in place for children who have identified SLCN</p> <p>Improved Language and Communication outcomes for preschool children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language and Communication Interventions at nursery including: Language Land (3-5s) Makaton (all ages) Interactive Storytelling (all ages) Bookbug (all ages) Early Language and Listening 2-3s, Early Interaction (baby rooms), Phonological Awareness (3-5s), Attention and Listening activities Above interventions will also be shared with families via Family posts and videos and events/groups/stay and play Communication Buddies work – linking with school aged children and young people Lickity Spit Story Play activities Spanish Language Learning Programme Resilience Building programmes from the Exchange Resource Emotional Literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Trackers Observations of Children Communication checklists Languageland checklists Staff engagement and feedback Children's engagement and feedback Family engagement and feedback





Loving Language will support more resilient communities and families by using the learning from our work to influence systemic change in community and family support services, that our families and practitioners have told us is necessary.

Regardless of where they live or work:

- More children will start school meeting their milestones and able to communicate their needs, motivations and aspirations.
- Parents will understand the key role they play in their child's speech language and communication development.
- Practitioners will be confident in their role in delivering outstanding quality experiences that develop loving, enjoyable, back and forth and language rich communication, particularly in the early years.

This Loving Language Outcome Plan is a living document that will grow and evolve according to our learning with families, practitioners and other stakeholders.

If you would like to keep up to date with our learning and experiences email Kirsty.dawson@indigogr.com.



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