

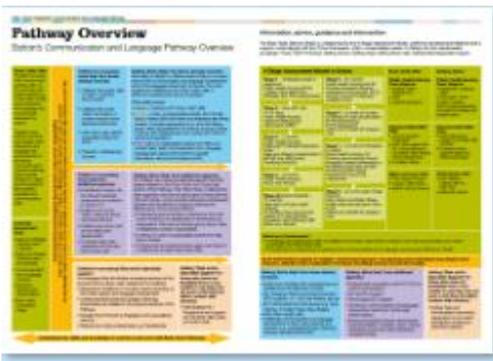
# Briefing note for Primary School Leaders and Governors November 2021

## Supporting Early Communication and Language in Bolton – embedding the offer to support practice and parent partnership.

Providing effective communication and language (CAL) support has never been as important. Early years professionals are supporting the return to educational settings for children who have experienced a range of home learning environments during the last six months, highlighted by Ofsted in their series of reports: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-series-briefing-on-early-years-october-2020>

It is crucial that we are fully equipped to support children who may have been adversely effected by the pandemic, identifying their CAL needs as we settle them back into their educational routines and acting swiftly to put in place effective support. In Bolton, we have a comprehensive offer which we want to make sure all professionals are fully accessing. We have developed documentation to clearly show Bolton's integrated CAL pathway which equips professionals with key knowledge and understanding of how to support children and families with speech, language and communication needs. Professionals utilising the support available through the Start Well Early Years Communication and Language Development service 'every child' element of our offer is key to ensuring early identification and preventative support for all children.

## Embedding the Bolton Early Years Integrated Communication and Language Pathway



**Background** - This is a new multi-agency Pathway for Bolton supporting **all children** in their communication and language journey. It is imperative that all organisations involved in early years are familiar with the Communication and Language Pathway to support all children in their developmental journey.

To re-watch the launch briefing which was hosted by Start Well and Bolton NHS Foundation Trust team on the 9th November, [click here](#). Please share with as many colleagues as possible.

You will find a **digital copy of the pathway** and supporting information in the **NEW [Pathway section](#)** of the Start Well website.

Supplementary Pathway sessions which focus on key areas of the Pathway, have also been scheduled throughout the year. We encourage you to explore these fully. Booking links below:

- [Exploring the 'Every Child' element of the Communication and Language Pathway](#)
- [Communication & Language Pathway: Understanding the criteria for accessing the Pathway](#)
- [Communication and Language Pathway: How can I support a child who scored 'red' in a WellComm screen?](#)
- [Communication & Language Pathway: Exploring getting 'Extra Help' from agencies already involved](#)
- [Bolton Early Years Integrated Communication and Language Pathway: Effective use of early communication and Language Interventions](#)
- [Communication & Language Pathway: Accessing 'More Help' from additional agencies | 9th March 2021](#)

**Further resources are available throughout the year for all professionals supporting early years children and their families in Bolton:**

- Information, advice and guidance around communication development and practice from Start Well education professionals and speech and language therapists within the Early Years Communication and Language Development service.
- Understanding and using the Early Communication and Language Resource to support practitioner and parental knowledge and understanding through online training and discussion groups.
- Advice and support to embed the role of the Communication Champion within your team including termly briefings and an online workshop for those new to the role.
- A range of practitioner facing and parent friendly materials to support high quality adult child interactions and the development of language rich environment, accessed through our Start Well website e.g. monthly top tips, 5 golden rules of communication [See here](#)
- Information, advice and guidance through a range of professionals for families via our Start Well centres.

**Available from Spring 2021 onwards:**

- WellComm training and consultancy support to embed effective use of the WellComm screening tool and intervention which underpins the communication and language pathway in Bolton.
- Funded Embedding WellComm events (for colleagues in School and PVI based settings) which further support teams to embed the effective use of WellComm and secure their understanding of how this fits into the pathway of support available e.g. accessing the local 'Let's Get Talking' and 'Steps to Talking' Parent Child Interaction support.
- Traded CPD covering a range of interventions such Language through Listening, Nursery Narrative and EYBIC.
- Essential CPD opportunities to support general communication and language practice such as supporting EAL learners and the ELKLAN accredited training.

To find out more about the Communication and Language offer in Bolton please contact a member of the Start Well Early Years Communication and Language Service on 01204 33 8349 or [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)

**Please note** - If you have accessed the Nuffield resources for Reception class as part of the Government's EY catch up funding to schools and would like to discuss how this fits with the Bolton pathway, please get in touch.