

## Summer Term 2019

### Speech and Language Therapy Newsletter for H&F Early Years Settings

Welcome to Central London Community Healthcare (CLCH) Speech and Language Therapy Summer Term Newsletter. We aim to use the Newsletter to keep you informed of SLT service information and updates. We provide similar information to parents and carers via the H&F Parent Forum. Additionally we will share a copy of the parent Newsletter with you for you to share with parents of children at your school.

*If you have any questions or suggestions for future Newsletter content we would be very pleased to hear from you. Additionally if you have any other ideas about how we, as a service, can engage with you, as stakeholders, please do let us know by contacting one of the SLT locality leads (email details in below table).*

#### SLT Overview

Research clearly shows that young children's early language and communication development is strongly related to school readiness at age four. Language skills are a critical area of development in young children. The SLT service is delivered on the well-researched principle that children's communication skills are best developed through interactions with the people who are most familiar with the children and young people, across functional everyday routines, activities and within their natural environments (e.g. everyday activities & routines: bath time, brushing teeth, mealtimes, shopping, playing, reading a book etc).

Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have been found to be the most common of childhood developmental difficulties. The SLT service has a strong focus on early identification and intervention and strives to support children and young people to reach their speech, language and communication potential, whatever their level of ability and preferred communication method.

#### Speech Language Communication Needs (SLCN) Updates

The SLT service is keen to work with partners and gather feedback from parents and carers and colleagues across early years, re; how the SLT service can help you to develop the skills and confidence to support children's early development within their functional everyday communication environment. We are keen to move towards a targeted, whole system partnership approach to identifying and meeting the needs of children with SLCN, through the development of a more graduated functional partnership offer.

The whole system approach aims to build confidence and skills across parents/carers and the early years workforce, to support and optimise the communication skills of all young children with SLCN. *Please do let us know how we can support you.*

#### NSPCC's Look, Say, Sing, Play campaign

H&F are the first Local Authority to work in Partnership with the NSPCC to launch the Look, Say, Sing, Play campaign which focuses on building strong brain architecture in 0-2 years. The Early Years SLT team will work in partnership with colleagues in the Children's Centres to reinforce the key messages to parents through everyday activities and interaction opportunities to promote/ support healthy brain development. Please see NSPCC website for more information <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/look-say-sing-play/>

## **NEW: SEN SLT Telephone Advice Surgery**

We have a new telephone advice service for practitioners who would like advice from early years SLT around issues such as:

- Adult-Child Interaction strategies
- How to run universal and targeted communication stimulation groups
- Supporting early identification of speech language and communication needs
- Accessing SLCN training
- Follow up SLC advice following training
- How to create communication supportive environments
- Using visual supports in the environment
- When should a child be referred to SLT?

The telephone advice service will be available on the dates and times below by calling 0207 **792 7788**:

Tuesday 25th June	1.30pm-5pm
Thursday 25th July	9.00am-12.30pm
Monday 12th August	1.30pm-5pm
Monday 16th September	9.00am-12.30pm
Thursday 31st October	9.00am-12.30pm
Wednesday 13th November	1.30pm-5pm
Thursday 5th December	1.30pm-5pm

**Please note: we will *not* discuss individual children on the telephone advice service. If you have questions about a specific child in your setting please contact the child's clinic based SLT.**

**Reducing missed clinic appointments: Cancellations and Non-attendance are a key challenge for the Early years SLT service.** We are working hard as a service to reduce the number of missed appointments as these are costly and prevent children/parents accessing essential support. We are sending out text appointment reminders to all our families. Children will be discharged from the service if appointments fail to be attended. Therapy support cannot be effective if parents do not attend appointments so please do encourage families to prioritise SLT appointments, you are welcome to accompany parents to support goals

**Total Communication Offer:** Our total communication offer continues to be reviewed with universal and targeted sessions offered at Children's Centres across the borough. Once dates are confirmed they will be available on the Local Offer website.

**Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Training Offer 2019-20:** The Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Service offers a range of training sessions which H&F practitioners are able to access. We will work with our partners to deliver training at more venues in H&F. Details of Advanced Practitioner Training are below:

**Communication Partners: Developing Language Skills in Small Groups Level 1**

Tuesday 18th June 2019      9.30am - 12pm      Committee Room 3 and 4 Kensington Town Hall  
 Hornton St, London W8 7NX

**Communication Partners: Developing Language Skills in Small Groups Level 2**

Monday June 24th 2019      9.30am - 12pm      Committee Room 3 and 4 Kensington Town Hall  
 Hornton St, London W8 7NX

**Supporting Conversations with Parents about Speech, Language and Communication Concerns**

Friday 21st June              9.30am - 12pm      Committee Room 3 and 4 Kensington Town Hall  
 Hornton St, London W8 7NX

It is essential to book onto ALL training courses. Please use the following email address: [clcht.slteytraining@nhs.net](mailto:clcht.slteytraining@nhs.net) to return your booking forms.

**List of H&F SLT Service Leads**

Our current SLT Paediatric Leadership Group contact details are detailed below. If you have any specific queries then please get in touch with the relevant service lead. We would be pleased to hear from you.

Job Title	Name	Contact Email Address
Clinical Business Unit Manager and Professional Lead for SLT	Freda O'Driscoll	freda.o'driscoll@nhs.net
Early Years SLT Locality Lead for H&F	Tashia Pillay	tpillay@nhs.net
Early Years SLT Dysphagia Lead	Debbie Vint	debbie.vint@nhs.net