



HELLO case study

Supporting parents towards providing more language-based activities within the home environment at Tinytots Vision Nursery

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What was the gap/problem?

What gap were you trying to address with this action plan?

We have noticed that our current cohort of children's language and communication skills have been particularly low when entering the setting. We recognise the importance of engaging parents in ensuring that they understand the benefits of the shared interactions and the opportunities that they provide in the home learning environment. We have found engaging parents difficult and have therefore focussed on section A2.

On the parent questionnaire completed by our two-four year old parent/carers over 50% of parents when asked what their child's favourite game was they gave physical based examples. This highlights the gap in terms of communication and potentially play skills that are being developed during this play which is reflected within the observations of the children in the setting.

On a recent WellComm assessment, children's scores indicated a problem: 38% were red, 31% were amber and 31% were green.



What were your goals?

What were the goals of your action plan? How will you measure this impact?

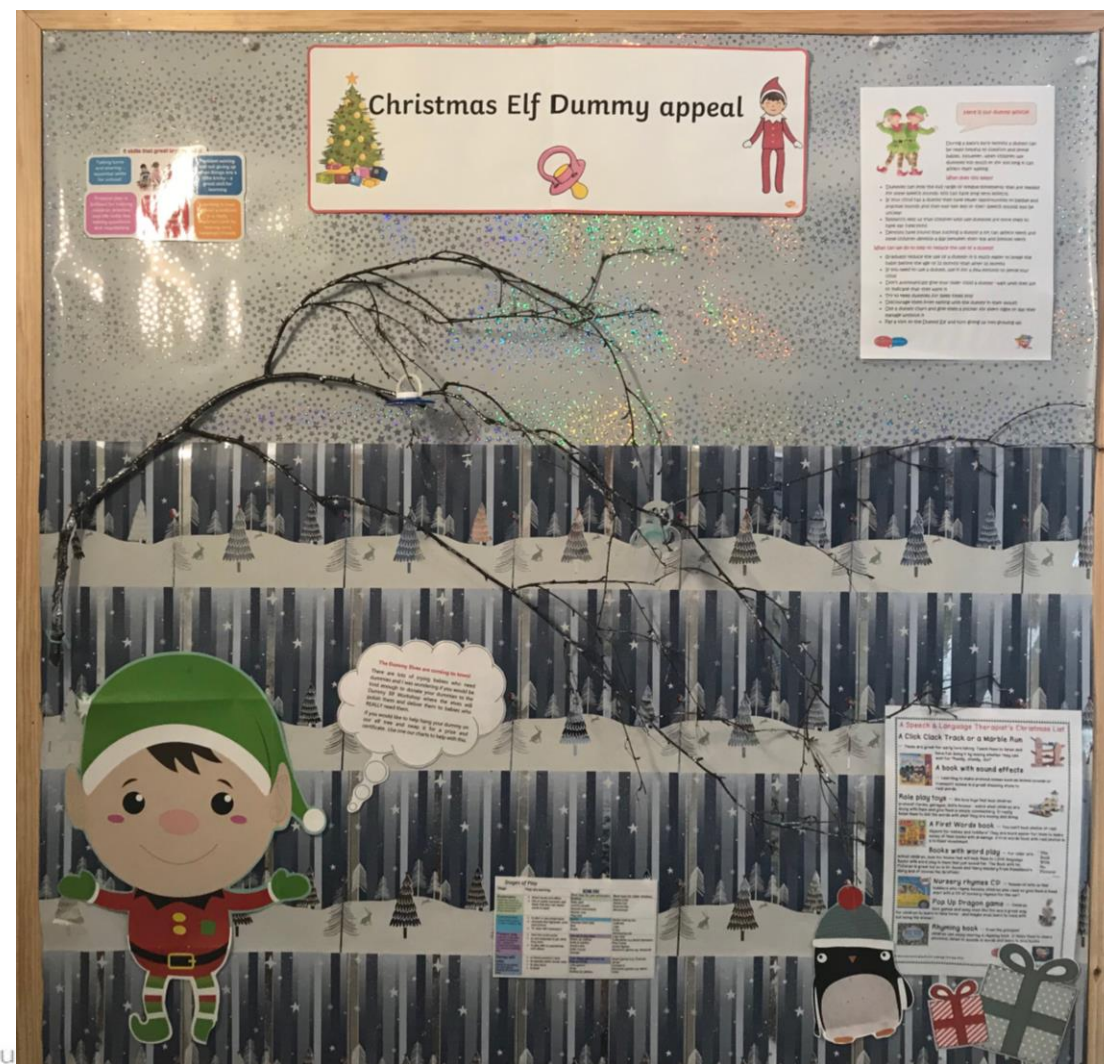
We aim to engage more parents in their child's learning at home. We want to increase the percentage of parents who are engaging in more language based activities within the home environment.

As a result of our actions, we aim to see more observations from parents on Eylog and that they are using the lending library and completing activities to support their child's language.

What did you do?

We considered different ways to engage parents and provide them with the information necessary to have a better knowledge of how to develop their child's language and communication skills.

We initially started with creating a dummy tree at Christmas to provide parents with information why it is beneficial to a child's communication skills to discard of these. We encouraged parents to talk to the child about the elves taking the dummies so that the child would not be using these. Information was also displayed about different toys that they could buy to promote communication. Practitioners spoke to parents about this and encouraged them to hang the dummy on the tree.



What did you do?

As we find that many of our parents do not see the display boards in the nursery we chose to do a 4 week block of challenges focussing on a different aspect of play, learning and interactions with a communication focus. We did this in a variety of ways to encourage the most amount of parents to take part, this included the challenge with lots of activity ideas on a display board, activities on our Facebook page and weekly hands on sessions.

Practitioners directed parents to the challenges and encouraged them by asking whether they had tried any of the activities. We also did some of them in nursery so that parents could see what we were doing and how this promoted language development.

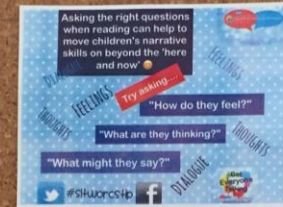
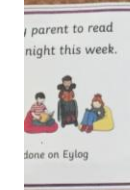
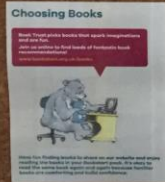
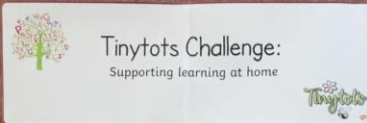


What did you do?

As part of our reading challenge we also took part in the Scholastic sponsored read. More parents took part in this and we were able to buy some new books as a result and used these to make our lending library.

When completing the displays we also used the talk to your baby resources so that we could provide information in a variety of languages.

Why reading with your child is important



What did you do?

We also set up a lending library for parents to share books with their child at home. Practitioners were asked about the children's interests and the stories that they enjoy in nursery. We also looked at the Wellcomm results and considered the gaps in the children's learning.

Each bag consists of:

- a book
- associated props/toys
- nursery rhyme linked to the book
- Colouring pictures
- A game
- Information about how to promote language linked to the activity/book in the bag

As the book bags were so successful we have also introduced home learning books. We have selected two children from each key group to complete language based activities at home as a trial. Activities are based around current interests and Wellcomm targets.



What was the impact?

Over the past twelve weeks, we have carried out a variety of activities to develop parents knowledge of how to develop language based activities in the home environment. We prioritised the parents who we knew did not interact with their child as much as others to hopefully have the biggest impact. Practitioners used there relationship with the parents to pass the information on and encourage them to join in activities.

Although we said that we were going to use the parent surveys again to see what difference the activities have made we decided that this may have given a limited amount of information. We have therefore used the observations on Eylog and looked at the comments that we have received about the activities.

On the way home from nursery [redacted] was running his hands along a wall saying a aa. I told him it was a wall and he said wall back to me. He then kept saying wall at each wall we came to.

Today as a family we hid toys in jelly then dug them out. Rubbed jelly in our hands and had fun together

This was following a messy play activity post on Facebook.

What was the impact?

had some biscuits today and after he had eat them he said 2 more biscuits please

Observation

I took to McDonalds accompanied by his mum and his brother. He was at the children section drawing and colour-painting sea / land animals. He was able to differentiate between animals that live in water from those that live on land. He also identified and named all the colours he was using for the painting. He then asked: "dad, why is the star-fish?" I pointed at the octopus. He said: "dad, that is not star-fish; it is octopus". Behold, when I looked at the picture critically, it was octopus. He then pointed at star-fish and said, "dad, this is star-fish" and other parents which where around started laughing and saying things like yes, teach him son. His mum said the same thing. It was fun.

Observation

On the walk home from nursery got a little excited at seeing some fairy lights so we decided to take him to a house that was fully decorated. When he saw it he said "wow"

Next Steps






Observation

Seed planted and Castle coloured in and put on lolly stick

On a recent Wellcomm assessment, 15% moved from red to amber and 9% moved from amber to green, showing that engaging families in this way may have impacted child outcomes. A longer time period will hopefully see this improvement increase further.



Reflect on the plan

Using HELLO has helped my setting reflect on the information that we provide to parents and how we use our partnerships to support children's language and communication. As a setting we have also looked at our practise and the information that we provide on an informal and more formal basis. We have incorporated a focus at each staff meeting to support in developing children's communication skills and have looked at our environment too. The Wellcomm has also had a strong focus throughout the HELLO Project as this gives clearly activities and information about the gaps and how the children can be supported to meet these.

Partnership with parents is an ongoing area of development as it is difficult to encourage engagement. HELLO has highlighted the importance of this and how it can have a positive impact on the children's overall learning and development.

As a result of HELLO we are going to continue to use the action plans to develop the areas further as due to staffing issues we were not able to always do the activities for a long enough period. The project has helped us to focus more on areas to improve on and made us think more holistically. We have identified that different approaches around the same idea is also important for example when we provided information on social media and on the display board. Although we have not engaged a large percentage of parents we have at least had an impact on some of the families that we work with.

The home learning books and lending library seem to have been the most successful so these are what we are going to focus on. Due to the success of this we are also going to take part in becoming an Elklan Communication Friendly Early Years Setting as we want to further to work that we have so successfully started. It has definitely highlighted the importance of parent partnership and the impact that we all have on children's interactions and communication.