



Department
for Education

Thames Valley
and South Central
Early Years
Stronger practice hub



Education
Endowment
Foundation

Elklan

Training to Support Children's
Language and Learning

Elklan Communication Friendly Settings (CFS)

Thames Valley and South Central Stronger Practice Hub is funding early years settings to take part in Elklan's CFS Programme. There is NO CHARGE to schools/settings taking part.

What are the benefits of taking part?

- 2 practitioners from your setting [1], who will become Lead Communication Practitioners (LCPs), will receive in depth training (Elklan's Combined Speech and Language Support Course for 3-5s and Creating Communication Friendly Settings for Early Years) so that they have enhanced knowledge about speech, language and communication development and how to support this for all children but particularly for those who have, or are at risk of having, a speech, language or communication need. These practitioners will gain accreditation at levels 3 and 4 through an Ofqual approved and regulated national awarding organisation.
- The LCPs will be equipped and supported to deliver five x 1 hour sessions of training to all the staff in your setting and to ensure that the environment and interactions across the whole setting support children's communication and learning.
- The setting will receive a Communication Friendly Setting award (renewable after 3 years).



[1] If your setting has less than 10 staff you can choose to have only one Lead Communication Practitioner trained.

A summary of the time commitment

- SLS elearning = 10hrs
- SLS webinars = 10hrs
- SLS practical tasks* =10hrs
- SLS log = 10hrs
- CFS webinar preparation = 2.5hrs
- CFS webinar delivery to staff team = 5hrs
- CFS Llog =7hrs
- CFS visit preparation = 0.5hrs
- CFS visit = 2hrs
- **Total = 57hrs over the Spring 2026, Summer 2026 and Autumn 2026 terms**

Notes

SLS = Speech and Language Support for 3-5s course for LCPs

CFS = Communication Friendly Setting – Early Years

*Practical tasks should be part of everyday activities with the children so not 'extra' time



Who can take part?

- Settings in the Thames Valley and South Central Stronger Practice Hub (SPH).
- These are settings in the following Authorities: West Berkshire, Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell Forest, Royal Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Buckinghamshire, Slough, South Oxfordshire, West Oxfordshire, Oxford, Basingstoke, East Hampshire, Winchester, New Forest, Eastleigh, Southampton, Fareham, Havant and Portsmouth,
- State maintained, private, voluntary or independent settings who cater for 3 and 4 year olds.
- Settings who have not previously gained a CFS award through Elklan.
- The Early Years Practitioners put forward as LCPs must have an existing level 3 qualification, an 'A' level or equivalent.

Next Steps

Find out more about the SLS course:

www.elklan.co.uk/Training/Practitioners/Speech_and_Language_Support_for_3-5s

Find out more about the CFS course:

www.elklan.co.uk/Training/Settings/CFSe/EarlyYears

To express your interest, complete the attached form and email it to kirsten@elklan.co.uk by Wednesday the 10th of December.

Course timetable

Activity & Practitioner	Speech and Language Support for 3-5s			CFS			
	e-learning modules (LCP)	Webinars (LCP & Tutor)	Learning Log L3 (LCP)	Virtual seminars (LCP & Tutor)	CC Session delivery (LCP & All staff)	Challenge questionnaires completed after strategies applied (All Staff)	LLog L4 & Audit (LCP)
Jan 26-30 2026		Meet & Greet 0.5hr					
Feb 2-6 2026	1. What is communication?						
Feb 9-13 2026	2. ACI and working with families	1					
Feb 16-20 2026	Half-term						
Feb 23-27 2026	3. Listening, attention & NVC	2	1				
Mar 2-6 2026	4. Vocabulary	3	2				
Mar 9-13 2026	5. ICWs	4	3	CFS & prep for delivery of CC1 (1hr extension to SLS webinar)			
Mar 16-20 2026	6. The Blank Language Scheme	5	4		CC1 What is Communication?		
Mar 23-27 2026	7. EL and narrative	6	5				
Mar 30 - Apr 10 2026	Easter Holidays						
Apr 13-17 2026	8. Play and links with language development	7	6				
Apr 20-24 2026	9. Unclear speech and Phonological awareness	8	7			Challenge 1 What is Communication?	
Apr 27 - May 1 2026	10. Stammering and course reflection	9	8				
May 5-8 2026 (BH)		10	9	Prep for delivery of CC2 (0.5 hr extension to SLS webinar)			
May 11-15 2026			10		CC2 CFS & ACI		
May 18-22 2026							
May 25-29 2026	Half-term						
Jun 1-5 2026							
Jun 8-12 2026				Prep for delivery of CC3 and feedback on CC1&2 (1 hr)		Challenge 2 CFS & ACI	LL L4 Sessions 1 & 2 deadline
Jun 15-19 2026			LLog L3 deadline		CC3 Word Journey		
Jun 22-26 2026							
Jun 29 - 3 Jul 2026							
Jul 6-10 2026						Challenge 3 Word Journey	
Summer Holidays							

Continued on the next page...

Course timetable continued

Activity & Practitioner	Speech and Language Support for 3-5s			CFS			
	e-learning modules (LCP)	Webinars (LCP & Tutor)	Learning Log L3 (LCP)	Virtual seminars (LCP & Tutor)	CC Session delivery (LCP & All staff)	Challenge questionnaires completed after strategies applied (All Staff)	LLog L4 & Audit (LCP)
Sept 7-11 2026				Prep for delivery of CC4 (0.5 hr)			
Sept 14-18 2026					CC4 Language Journey		
Sept 21-25 2026							
Sept 28 - Oct 2 2026							
Oct 5-9 2026				Prep for delivery of CC5 & audit, and feedback on CC 3&4 (1 hr)		Challenge 4 Language Journey	
Oct 12-16 2026							
Oct 19-23 2026					CC5 Families and linking tog		
Oct 26-30 2026	Half-term						
Nov 2-6 2026							LLog L4 Sessions 3-4 deadline
Nov 9-13 2026							Audit visits
Nov 16-20 2026				1.5hrs Feedback CC5 & celebration!		Challenges 5&6 Work with families, Evaluation and WOW	
Nov 23-27 2026							LLog L4 Sessions 5-7 deadline
Speech and Language Support for 3-5s Certificate				CFS Certificate			