



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

## Communication Friendly Settings - Subsidised places

As part of the Department for Education's (DfE) Early Years Recovery Programme, Thames Valley and South Central Stronger Practice Hub and the EEF are working together to fund early years settings' access to Elklan's Communication Friendly Settings Programme. There is NO CHARGE to schools and 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 Autumn 2025 and Spring 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: Bracknell Forest, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Portsmouth, Reading, Slough, Southampton, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham.
- 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:

[https://www.elklan.co.uk/Training/Practitioners/Speech\\_and\\_Language\\_Support\\_for\\_3-5s](https://www.elklan.co.uk/Training/Practitioners/Speech_and_Language_Support_for_3-5s)

Find out more about the CFS course:

<https://www.elklan.co.uk/Training/Settings/CFS/EarlyYears/>

Join us for a webinar (15 minutes) to hear more details and express your interest! Use the link below at: 12.30 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July; 5pm Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 8.30am Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July OR 3.30pm Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

[CFS Thames Valley EYs | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Complete the attached form and email it to [alex@elklan.co.uk](mailto:alex@elklan.co.uk)