

Through My Eyes – supporting social communication in Early Years settings.



An evidence-informed approach dedicated to identifying and supporting children in early years settings who have social communication needs. The programme has been designed by drawing on high-quality evidence and the expertise of the team comprising a highly experienced nursery teacher, and a specialist speech and language therapist.

What is the aim?

Through My Eyes (TME) aims to help early years practitioners understand, celebrate and support children with social communication differences, addressing key challenges, such as knowing how to provide opportunities for positive social interactions and support transitions to primary school. By providing knowledge and tools (evidence-based activities and strategies), TME will empower practitioners to identify needs and tailor support to each child's unique profile.



What will the programme involve?

We are looking for 12 settings to deliver the programme and provide feedback for future development. All enrolled settings will receive a £2,000 payment for their participation in research. The programme is taking place from September 2024 to March 2025 and includes:

- Online training, "*What is social communication*" (1.5 hour) for all setting staff, followed by 4 sessions for selected staff on key strategies, setting environment, talking to parents, and creating communication passports.
- Access to TME project team via an in-setting visit and drop-in clinic.
- Practitioners are expected to:
 - identify a TME Social Communication Champion and Deputy Champion, conduct a social communication audit, identify children who may benefit from support.
 - create communication profiles for selected children.
 - implement recommended strategies with project team support, including preparing materials for "attention bucket" sessions, and complete brief monitoring forms for daily activities and interactions.
 - develop communication passports, including recommended strategies, to aid transitions to next setting.

During delivery, participating practitioners and senior leaders will be required to take part in a small number of feedback activities (e.g. surveys and group discussions) to help us understand your experiences of implementing the programme. A full privacy notice and other relevant data protection information will be made available for you to review prior to signing a memorandum of understanding.



How will participants be supported to deliver the programme?

- Initial training will be offered to all staff, followed by strategy-specific training for selected staff who will lead the project in setting and an in-setting visit by TME project team. Staff will also have access to the TME team via email and a drop-in clinic.
- Participating settings will be provided with direct modelling in settings, and a handbook, detailing activities, strategies and signposting to valuable resources.



What do we hope the programme will offer?

- **For practitioners:** gain an understanding of social communication development and how differences manifest; learn practical, everyday methods to celebrate and support each child's individual needs in this area; discover how to provide opportunities for all children to experience positive social interactions, facilitating smooth transitions.
- **For children:** enjoy social interactions, feel valued and happy in settings and ultimately, benefit from adults seeing things through their eyes!



Key dates

- **Initial training session (All staff)** – September 2024
- **Settings complete audit (Overseen by setting manager/lead)** – by end of September 2024
- **Follow-up training/webinars (Social Communication Champion and Deputy Champion and Through My Eyes Project Team)** – starting October 2024
- **Support session(s) and in person visit with teachers/practitioners** – November/December 2024
- **Support Documents completed for child/children (Keyworker/TME lead)** – January/February 2025
- **Programme ends** – March 2025

Next steps

Information webinar available to find out more: 7– 8pm 5th June 2024

Please register your interest in the programme by 5pm, June 12th by completing this [short form](#) . If you have any questions, contact admin@TVEYSPH.org