

The Achievement Service

Ensuring that every child and young person in Middlesbrough has equal access to high quality education that increases and improves life chances, through achievement of the best possible outcomes at every stage of their learning journey and beyond.

Best Start Pathway



Created and delivered jointly with HDFT colleagues, this programme begins in the ante-natal period and offers additional contacts by midwifery, health visiting and school readiness staff to support the most vulnerable parents to be in Middlesbrough. These services work closely together throughout the time the families are on the pathway to ensure services are joined up and seamless.

The threshold criteria identified in the ante natal period for inclusion on the BSP are -

- Teen parent who is isolated/unsupported
- Teen parent who has been or are currently part of the Looked After system
- Either parent of the unborn child is a care leaver (aged 25 or below)
- Either parent has poor mental health
- Either parent is a substance user
- Domestic abuse is prevalent within the family/ household
- Either parent has had previous or is currently subject to Child Protection proceedings
- Professional judgement*
- * This will be based on practitioner judgement if, following assessment, families require additional support but do not meet any of the above categories.

The pathway went live last year, piloted in three areas of need in Middlesbrough initially and is now open to all families.

HENRY (healthy eating and nutrition for the really young)+ Fussy eaters programme

- Henry is an evidence based approach developed to support babies and children to gain the best possible start in life. It enables the whole family to make positive lifestyle changes aiming to create healthier, happier home environments and communities
- There are 8 sessions in the programme developed to improve nutrition, emotional wellbeing, parenting skills, healthy lifestyles and oral health.
- Health and Children centre colleagues have worked in partnership to develop the delivery of this programme and later a Fussy Eaters session and follow up call.
- Due to Covid we had to move from centre based delivery and worked to develop Virtual delivery timetable to enable families to have a choice to attend groups or take up 1-1 delivery option.
- Groups are delivered in a 4 week cluster with two sessions a week via Teams with Health and Children's Centre School Readiness colleagues as co-facilitators. 1-1 delivery for Children Centre School Readiness staff developed via the use of WhatsApp and more recently Teams. Families are invited to a Tech Check session to support any initial teething issues in relation to IT.
- During 2021 there were a total of 102 families completed the programmes. Numbers for the Fussy Eaters programme have increased and therefore reduced the numbers of families needing to undertake HENRY.

Play and Learn Together

8 week programme delivered jointly with health colleagues:

- Children are referred following their Ages and Stages questionnaire results if they land in the grey area (developmental delay) or the black (lack of learning opportunity at home). School Readiness staff undertake the programme with families on a one to one basis, please see data below:

- 136 families completed the programme in 2021

Of those:

- 94% of parents reported an increase in their confidence
- 100% of parents reported an increase in their child's early years skills
- 94% of parents reported positive changes on the early literacy questionnaire
- 82% of children increased their ASQ score at their ASQ review which takes place 3 months after the SR team have completed their work with the family

Ethnic Minority Achievement Team, Education Directorate

International New Arrival Protocols (INA)

- Parental interview
- Admission forms
- Safeguarding assessment,
- Language assessments and relevant signposting is completed.

INA SEND Protocol

Children who arrive with complex needs are supported through an enhanced pathway. This collaboration with the SEND and EP teams at the point of arrival is critical to ensuring timely access to appropriate education support.

Ethnic Minority Achievement Team , Education Directorate



Health Literacy:

- CMF projects in 2017-20 to close health literacy gaps. This included explanations of various points of health access – when to go to A&E, GP, 111. Visits to pharmacies, health drop ins and immunisation information.

EMAT COVID Messaging support plan:

- Blanket offer of support to all Primary, Secondary, and Special schools
- EMAT Offer of first language support to support COVID messaging.

Translation of 'Key COVID messages for Parents' into main languages; Arabic, Romanian, Czech, Urdu. This to be updated and circulated monthly – Directorate wide to support all Children's Services teams.

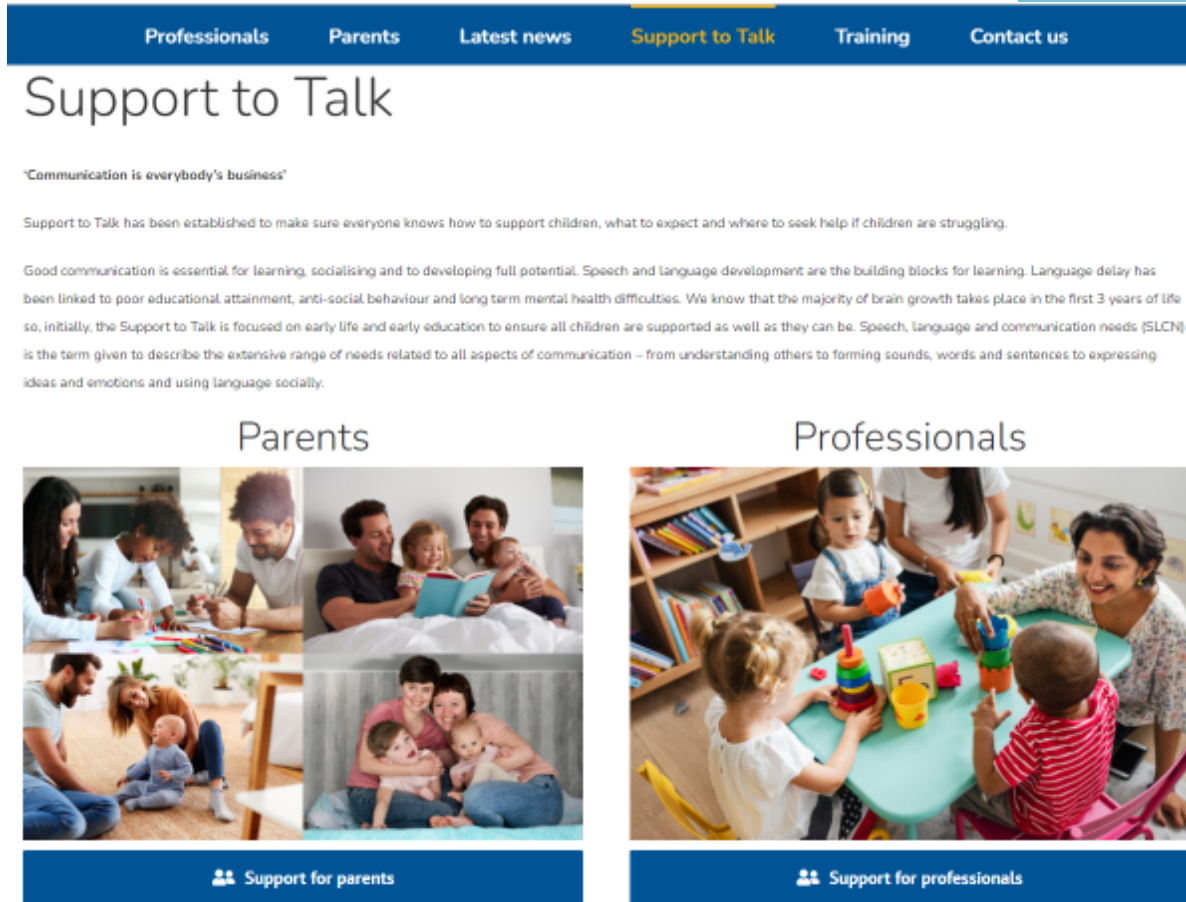
Short Videos created of 'Key COVID messages' in main languages; Arabic, Romanian, Czech, Urdu. Uploaded to Corporate Youtube, to enable wide and effective sharing. Encourage schools to upload on school websites and social media platforms.

Support to Talk

When schools and settings returned to 'normality' in March 2021, it became glaringly apparent in Middlesbrough that Covid-19 had impacted massively on the speech & language skills of our youngest children in Middlesbrough. Evidence shows poor speech development can have long-term effects on learning.

As an Achievement Team, we realised we needed a resource to support both parents and professionals in helping to address the speech and language skill deficit. Working with colleagues from South Tees Speech & Language Team, *Support to Talk* was developed.

Support to Talk sits within the Learning Middlesbrough website with sections for both parents and professionals



The screenshot shows the 'Support to Talk' section of the Learning Middlesbrough website, specifically the 'Parents' sub-page. The header includes navigation links: Professionals, Parents, Latest news, Support to Talk, Training, and Contact us. The main heading is 'Support to Talk'. Below it, a quote reads: "Communication is everybody's business". A paragraph explains that Support to Talk has been established to make sure everyone knows how to support children, what to expect and where to seek help if children are struggling. Another paragraph states that good communication is essential for learning, socialising and developing full potential, and that language delay has been linked to poor educational attainment, anti-social behaviour and long term mental health difficulties. It notes that the majority of brain growth takes place in the first 3 years of life, so initially, the Support to Talk is focused on early life and early education to ensure all children are supported as well as they can be. It defines Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) as the term given to describe the extensive range of needs related to all aspects of communication – from understanding others to forming sounds, words and sentences to expressing ideas and emotions and using language socially.

Parents

Professionals

Support for parents

Support for professionals



The screenshot shows the 'Support to Talk' section of the Learning Middlesbrough website, specifically the 'Professionals' sub-page. The header includes navigation links: Professionals, Parents, Latest news, Support to Talk, Training, and Contact us. The main heading is 'Support to talk for professionals'. Below it, a section titled 'What is Speech, Language and Communication?' explains that the Middlesbrough College of Speech and Language Therapists defines the terms speech, language and communication as follows:

- Speech refers to:**
 - Saying sounds accurately and in the right place in words
 - Speaking fluently, without hesitation, pausing or hesitating words or sounds
 - Speaking with expression in a clear voice, using pitch, volume and intonation to add meaning
- Language refers to:**
 - Understanding and making sense of what people say
 - Using words to build up sentences which are used in larger stretches of spoken language and to build conversations
 - Putting information in the right order to make sense
- Communication refers to:**
 - Being able to communicate to people and take turns as well as change
 - Using non-verbal communication to suit the situation in which you are interact with others
 - Non-verbal communication, for example eye contact, gestures and facial expressions
 - Being able to consider another person's perspective, intentions and the wider context

In this section

- Stages of speech and language development
- Multilingualism
- How to refer to Speech and Language Therapy
- Useful links and videos

Ideas and activities to try

Why speech and language is important

What to expect from a Speech and Language assessment

Learning Middlesbrough

Phone: 01462 777000

Middlesbrough CHILDREN MATTER

Support to Talk

Training

Contact us

<https://www.learningmiddlesbrough.co.uk/support-to-talk/>

Parents:

- ICAN stages of speech and language development chart
- Ideas to try at home to develop specific speech & language skills
- Multilingualism support
- Simple statistics as to why speech and language are so important
- How to refer into Speech & Language support and what an appointment will be like
- Useful web-based resources



Professionals:

- More in-depth statistics as to why speech and language are so important
- Activities to incorporate into settings to develop specific speech & language skills
- How to request/refer into Speech & Language support
- Information on Speech and Language programmes used widely in Middlesbrough plus CPD opportunities
- Useful web-based resources



Parents were consulted as to what words/phrases they would search for online when looking for speech and language help – *Support to Talk*

Support to Talk is a one-stop-shop for Speech and Language support in Middlesbrough, with the long-term aim to reduce the number of inappropriate referrals into an already stretched Speech and Language service

The *Support to Talk* resource will sit within the Strategic work that's currently being undertaken on speech, language and communication across a whole host of services

The Tees Valley CCG is keen to share/adapt the work undertaken in Middlesbrough across the other local authorities