

Hi Marian

The Speech, Language and Literacy Strategy of Young Knocknaheeny focuses on oral language development across the community catchment area, and interlinks with the three other Programme Strategies. In terms of the 3-6 years age range, which may be most applicable to Friday's meeting, the Oral Language Development Officers provide the following;

- **Capacity building for practitioners, early years educators and primary school teachers;**

We deliver '*Learning Language and Loving It*<sup>TM</sup>- The Hanen Program®for Early Childhood Educators', and '*ABC and Beyond*<sup>TM</sup>- The Hanen Program®for Building Emergent Literacy in Early Childhood Settings' to practitioners in Early Years Centres and teachers in Primary Schools within the YK catchment area. Both programmes are evidence based and involve a combination of group training sessions and individual video coaching sessions. Joyce and Showers (2002) report that theory + discussion + demonstration in training + practice + feedback in training + coaching in the classroom led to 95% of participants researched using the new knowledge and skills in their practice. In our experience the video coaching sessions are vital components of the programmes, and enable transference of skills into practise for the participant while reflecting on their interactions with the child/children in their setting. The focus on these programmes is to provide skills and strategies to support adult-child interactions for those working with children as early as possible.

*Learning Language and Loving It*<sup>TM</sup> is based on a social interactionist theory of language development, which views the child's development of language, social skills, and emergent literacy within the context of the early caregiver / child relationship and interactions. We deliver seven group training sessions (17.5 hours approximately ); and four individual videotaping and feedback sessions for each participant. We have focused this programme at a target audience of early years educators working in crèche and preschool settings, Infant Parent Support Workers in Young Knocknaheeny, and Early Start teachers. Further information regarding the evidence base and a research summary for this programme can be found here: <http://www.hanen.org/SiteAssets/Helpful-Info/Research-Summary/Learning-Language-Research-Summary.aspx>

*ABC and Beyond*<sup>TM</sup> is designed to help educators of preschool children (ages 3-5) promote the emergent literacy skills that all children need to develop in order to learn to read and write successfully. Participants learn the most effective ways to promote the building blocks of literacy including oral language, vocabulary, story comprehension and the language of learning. We have focused this programme at a target audience of Junior Infant and Senior Infant teachers, Learning Support and Resource teachers, Early Start teachers and preschool teachers, although we have also had teachers from a variety of classroom settings/age ranges attend the programme. We offer four group training sessions (12hours approximately); and two individual videotaping and feedback sessions for each participant. Further information regarding the evidence base and a research summary for this programme can be found here: <http://www.hanen.org/SiteAssets/Helpful-Info/Research-Summary/ABC-and-Beyond-Research-Summary.aspx>

In terms of local evaluation, the roll out of the Hanen programmes will be included in the 'Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme Process and Outcome Evaluation 2018' which is due to be launched towards the end of this year.

- **Speech and language assessments for all Junior Infant pupils across the four primary schools in the catchment area;**

We offer speech and language assessments to all Junior Infant pupils, with parental consent, across the four primary schools in our catchment area. Support re: follow up and engaging with appropriate services post assessment is offered to parents/caregivers/teachers of those children identified with an area of need during the assessment.

- **Consultations with an Oral Language Development Officer;**

We offer consultations to community based services in relation to any queries as to how best to support a child's oral language development, how to access appropriate services etc.

If you would like any information on the prebirth-3 years element of our oral language programme I'm happy to provide this also.

Let me know if you have any questions in relation to any of the above.

Best wishes  
Grace

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