



I have recently successfully completed my **Level 3 Elklan (speech and language) course for under 5s at Level 3.**

This has been extremely beneficial in the nursery as I feel more confident in working with children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). I am now able to help the other members of staff in the nursery. We all understand the importance of our roles in developing children's communication. We can support the communication development of all children in the nursery environment across the curriculum and in the outdoor play too!

We have a range of strategies at our disposal which we use to support children's communication whatever and wherever they are being taught. We feel more confident in interpreting SaLT reports and programmes which means they can be implemented more easily and effectively. We know how to modify their interactions which is of benefit to ALL children.

We can change the way we speak to children so our children can understand more of what is said. We encourage talking by using specific strategies such as modelling language which can be used anytime, anywhere! We know how to support a child with interaction difficulties. We know the types of children we work with and those which need to be seen by the speech and language therapist. We are more confident in talking to parents about the child's speaking and listening skills. We share a common language with the SaLT service and so understand what they are being asked to do quickly and can complete activities more efficiently.

I have a high level of interest in promoting the communication skills of all children in our nursery but particularly those with speech, language and communication needs or who are at risk of developing these.

I have also just now become an **Elklan Let's Talk Tutor!**

As a tutor, I can now train practitioners and parents on an Elklan course called "Let's talk with under 5s" It is a *Speech and Language Support for under 5s*. It is a newly updated and highly successful externally accredited training course which equips staff and parents to develop these key communication skills in children proved to ensure later success in school. It is the only accredited training in speech, language and communication that is aimed specifically at the early year's workforce. Level 1 accreditation will be achieved. I go around to different schools to promote this training.

We are now working towards becoming an **Elklan Communication Friendly Early Years Setting!**

Elklan Communication Friendly Setting (CFS) accreditation is awarded to Early Years settings that have trained and supported all their staff in communication and language development. We need to also have shown evidence of embedding this knowledge in targeted interventions and through the implementation of a setting communication policy. Accreditation can be achieved in one year and is renewed after three years. It is the most cost-effective strategy available for capacity building in communication within settings.

For more information see the below links:

<https://www.elklan.co.uk/information/sts/benefits-of-elklan-training>

<https://www.elklan.co.uk/information/practitioners/benefits-of-elklan-training>

Warmest regards
Hyacinth