

LANGUAGE FOR LIFE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

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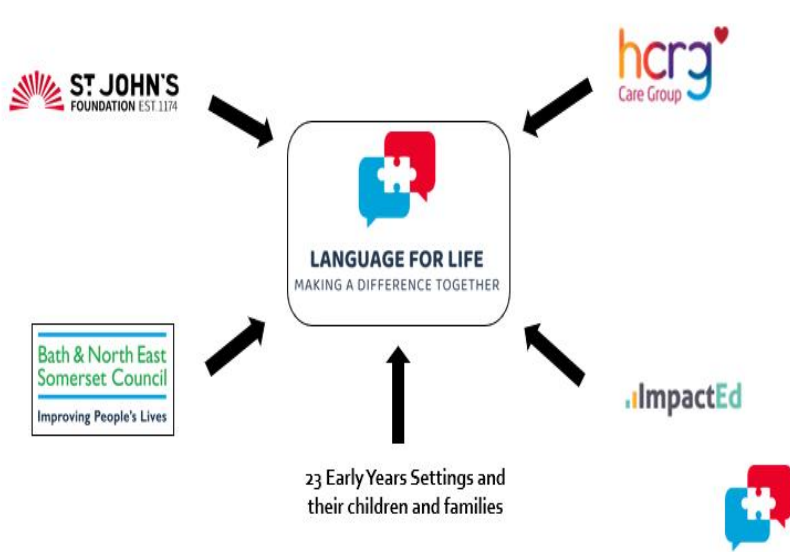
Project Context

- EYFS Profile data outcomes for the cohort in receipt of FSM are amongst the lowest of all local authorities in England.
- The Bercow report 2018 – “the ability to communicate is fundamental to learning, to relationships and to life chances”.
- Early Intervention is crucial and “means a child is able to start school with confidence, ready to learn and flourish” (Anne Longfield, Children’s Commissioner 2019)
- Jean Gross - Closing the word gap: Learning from five areas who have gained ground



Multi-agency pilot project focussed on closing the persistent word gap which impacts on children's later outcomes.

- Targeting early communication and language needs with children aged 18 months to 4 years 11 months.
- Two-year pilot in two key areas of the LA.
- 23 early years settings have children who are in receipt of 2-yr-funding/EY Pupil Premium and feed to one of 6 Primary Empowerment Project schools.
- **Key focus:** to upskill staff to support children within their setting, particularly those unlikely to meet specialist thresholds.



“The ability to communicate is fundamental to learning, to relationships and to life chances” Bercow Report 2018

The WellComm Toolkit

An evidence-based assessment and intervention programme designed for use by early years practitioners to support language development.

All early years practitioners are trained to use the toolkit to screen all children in their setting who are 1:06 years or older. .

Screening identifies children as:

- **Green** - no additional intervention needed,
- **Amber** - extra support and intervention needed within the setting, or
- **Red** - extra support and intervention needed and referral to specialist services should be considered

After assessment there are resources available so that immediate interventions can be put in place. These are a collection of play based activities known to be effective.

Regular screening will monitor progress and number of children who move up the bands can be used to measure effectiveness of interventions





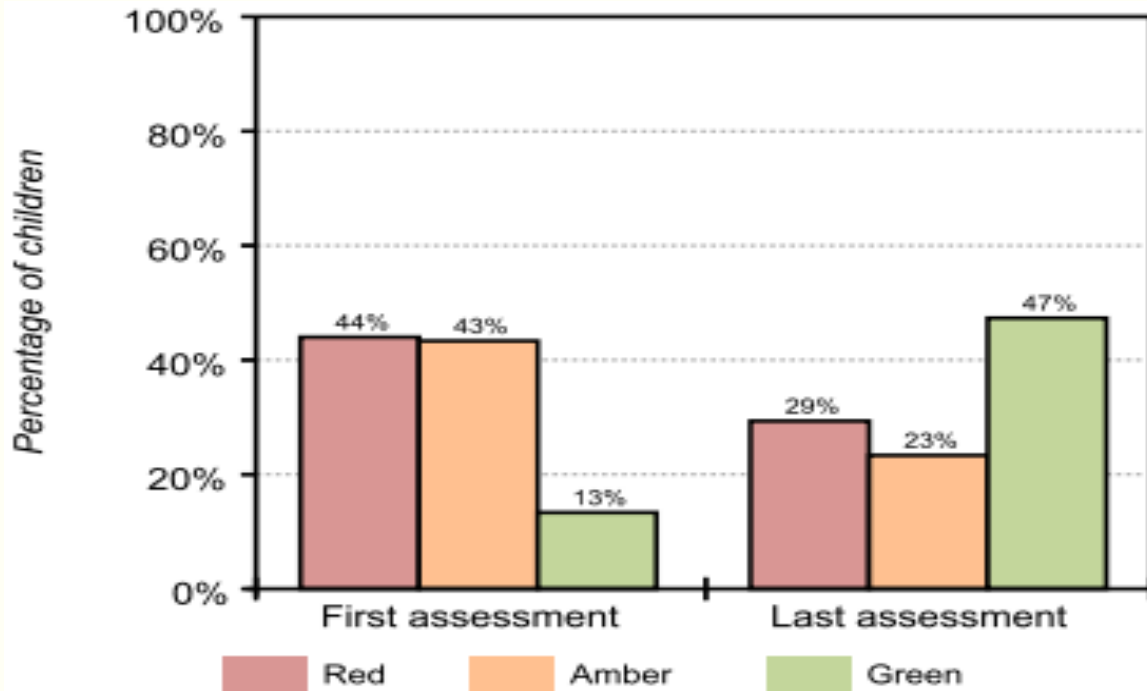
Support visits

As well as supporting use of toolkit, the speech and language therapist helps settings to create a language rich environment and offers responsive training and support alongside Early Years team visits.

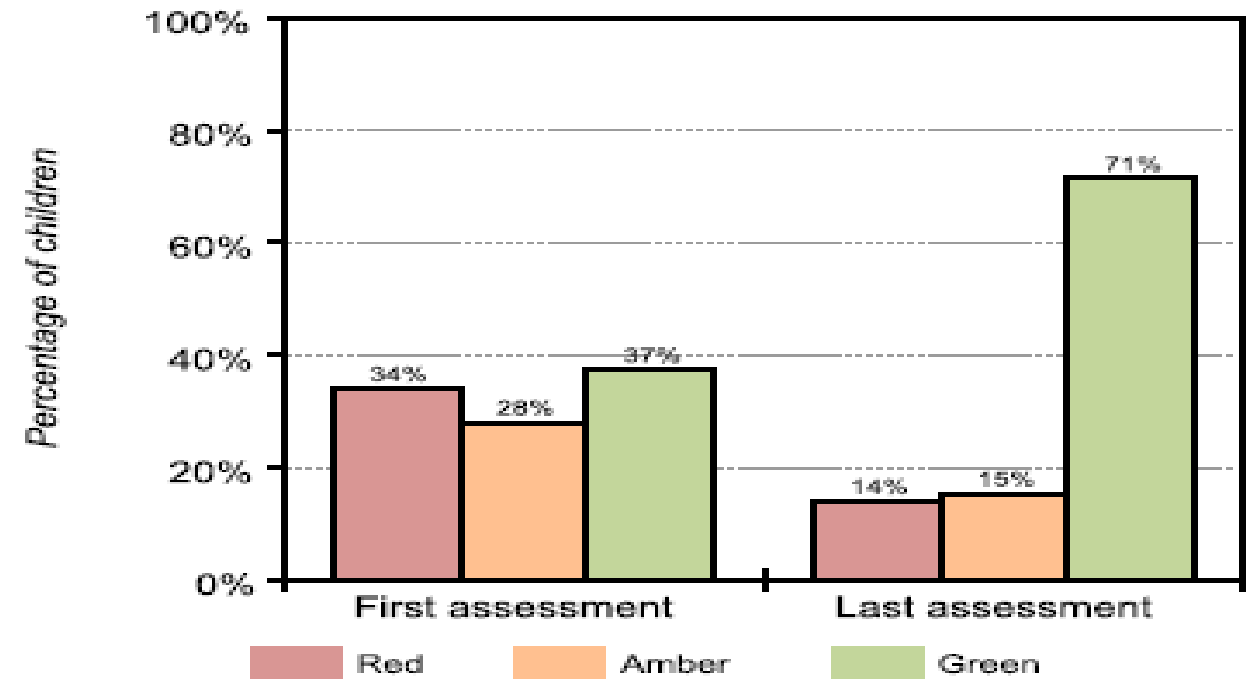
The LfL team support settings to identify Communication Champions who are offered additional training to ensure that learning and use of the toolkit is embedded.

Families are involved throughout.

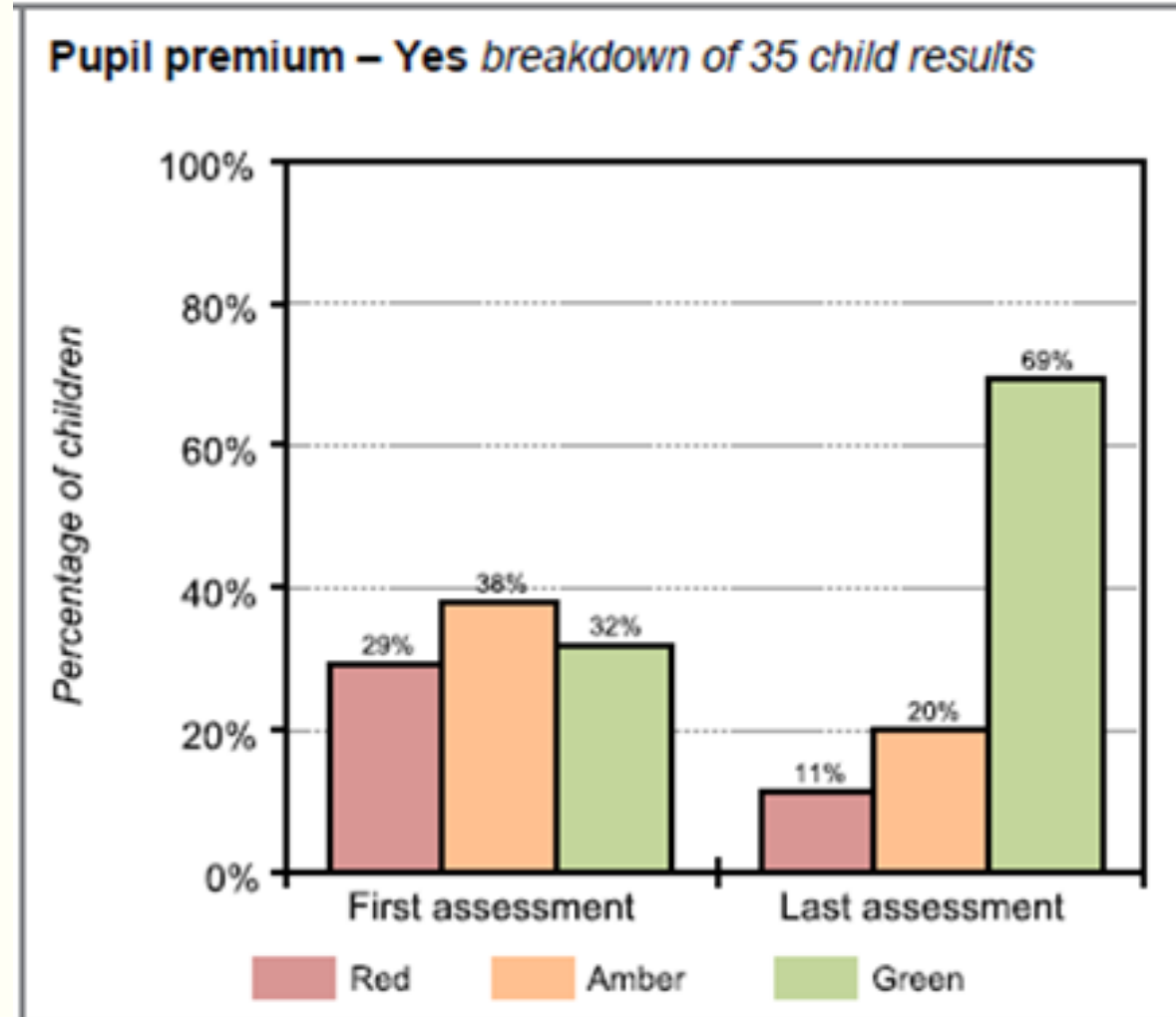
Project Year 1 Sept 21- June 22



Project Year 2 Sept 22- June 23



Children recorded to be in receipt of EYPP using the report Wizard Sept 22 -23



Feedback from families:

...The support my child's setting has given has been such an invaluable resource. His speech development has come on brilliantly The language for life targets and WellComm toolkit have been really useful to highlight areas of my child's speech that needs working on and also areas that he has progressed well with as well.....This type of community / primary care support has been hugely beneficial to my child and us as a family too.

Feedback from services

Several children on the Preschool Language Service caseload have made such incredible progress on their targets with their setting, that by the time they attend clinic for a review, they are in the green zone and we assess them to be within age expectations for the language skills.



Feedback from settings:

Our setting has embedded the WellComm screening and interventions into our setting's ethos, vision and values. All staff are enjoying being part of the project and are seeing children make progress.

We have faced ongoing staffing challenges, despite this our setting has remained dedicated to the success of the project. We can see how much it has helped our children and families. We feel more confident at supporting language difficulties.

We have found that there are even more children that were red or amber and are now in the green zone this year, compared to last year. Most of these children are going to school and have had 18 months of screening and support from us.

We have noticed lots of children have moved from amber and red into green zones within 6 months of target support. This matches with our observations of the children's progress with their language during play. We think having a carefully planned target monitoring form for each room, has helped to support the red and amber children.



Ofsted Feedback:

“The childminder knows how to support children with special educational need and/or disabilities. She works in partnership with parents and professionals, such as the speech and language therapist, and offers early intervention. The childminder is currently implementing a local initiative called 'LfL' to help improve the speech and language outcomes for children under five years. As part of this programme, she has been focusing on linking activities and asking specific questions to target children's communication and language needs.”

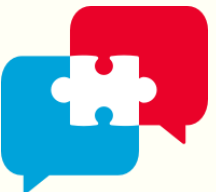
EY Setting Ofsted Report -2022

The childminder supports children's language development well. All children are making good progress in this area of learning due to the effective strategies put in place by the childminder. For instance, she narrates their play, introduces new words and encourages children to join in conversation as they play...the childminder attends training, such as LfL project. As a result, the children benefit from a well-planned and delivered curriculum in this area of learning.

EY Setting Ofsted Report – 2023

“Children's listening, attention and literacy skills are strong... Children show good communication and language skills, including those who speak English as an additional language... The SENCO works diligently with outside professionals to ensure that children get the help they need.”

EY Setting Ofsted Report -2023



Next steps and legacy

- Language for Life pilot evaluation report completed
- New project business case for the further rollout of Language for Life across B&NES has been approved
- Double roll-out – initially 45 settings across Radstock, Midsomer Norton and Paulton areas.
- Project legacy: Pilot settings invited to join the LFL Quality Mark to include Communication Champion support; new practitioner catch-up training and ongoing whole setting training. Settings will continue to use the Wellcomm toolkit and submit outcomes.





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Questions?