



Better Communication Research Programme

Newsletter 1 2010: Tracking the Impact of Language and Communication Needs

www.warwick.ac.uk/go/bettercommunication

If you are receiving this newsletter then you are involved in the part of the Better Communication Research Programme that is tracking the impact of language and communication needs in schools. We are very excited to be sharing our news with you in our first newsletter!

Thank you to all participating children, families and schools!

What we are trying to find out

This project will help us to understand teaching and learning for children with a range of language and communication needs. The aim of our study is to look at the needs of children who have language difficulties or autism spectrum disorders while they are at school.

How your child will benefit

By finding more about your child's strengths and difficulties we hope that we will be able to suggest effective ways of better meeting their needs.

Who we are working with

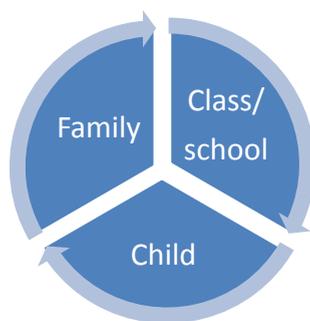
We are working with approximately 300 families in over 70 schools in five Local Authorities in and around London: Barnet, Harrow, Hertfordshire, Hounslow and Lambeth.

What we have been doing this year (year 1 of the project)

- Working with children, talking to parents and asking parents and teachers to complete questionnaires

Working with parents

- Language and communication
- Social interaction
- Wellbeing
- Support in and out of school



Working with teachers

- Attainment
- Communication
- Strategies
- Additional support in school

Working with children

- Language
- Literacy
- Wellbeing

What we will be doing in year 2 and year 3 of the project:

- Reflect on the information that we have collected this year
- Further individual work with the children
- Observing what happens in the children's classrooms

The team

Project directors:



Professor Geoff Lindsay
University of Warwick



Professor Julie Dockrell
Institute of Education



Professor Tony Charman
Institute of Education

Project coordinators:



Olympia Palikara
Institute of Education



Dr Jessie Ricketts
University of Warwick

Project researchers: Lindy Peacey, Arwen Coulthurst, Josie Paget, Shona MacLeod, Catherine Allison

Parents

- **Have you spoken to us over the phone about your views?** If not, Lindy Peacey will be contacting you shortly
- **Are you planning to move? Is your child moving to another school?** Please let us know by email, by phone or by post using the FREEPOST envelope enclosed with this newsletter

The wider impact of our research

- Our research is funded by the Department for Education and the results will be used by the government to guide provision for children with language and communication needs.
- We will be raising awareness of language and communication needs by presenting our research to policy makers and a range of professionals who work with children including teachers, educational psychologists and speech and language therapists.
- Our steering group includes educational psychologists, psychiatrists, representatives from voluntary organisations and researchers. Regular meetings with group informs our research.
- We will be attending two conferences, one in the UK and one in the US. This will allow us to describe our findings to the wider academic community.

Our website

Keep an eye on our website as we'll be updating it with news regularly:

www.warwick.ac.uk/go/bettercommunication

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