

Platform 3:

Level 3 Award: Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication



The Communication Trust
Every child understood

Platform 3: Research and Policy Links

The Level 3 Award *Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication* raises the skill level of the children and young people's workforce, increases the quality of provision and ensures better outcomes for children and young people. As such it links in with a number of key government policy areas including:

- Supporting the implementation of the Children & Families Act 2014 and SEND Code of Practice
- Developing the early years and childcare market including childminders
- Supporting front-line staff with implementing the 2 year progress check, integrated review and the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework
- Tackling inequality through the Early Years Pupil Premium and Pupil Premium

Platform 3 is an innovative, accessible and cost effective online learning route for delivering and undertaking the Level 3 accredited qualification.

Research and Policy Links

The importance of children's communication is still recognised as a policy priority and evidence suggests that there is a real need for a focus on early language due to the prevalence of language delay, especially in areas of deprivation.

The latest Early Years Foundation Stage profile results for England show that **34 per cent of children do not reach a good level of development** by the end of reception, with the areas of Communication and Literacy ranked among the lowest. This number is increased to **49 per cent for less well-off children** – those identified as eligible for free school meals. **For children with special educational needs, 79 per cent of children do not reach a good level of development** and of the children identified as having SEN, 50 per cent have SLCN (speech, language and communication needs) as their primary need.

Besides SLCN being the most prevalent special educational need in state funded primary schools, it is also associated with the three most prevalent needs in secondary schools: Behavioural, Emotional and Social Development, moderate learning difficulties and specific learning difficulties.

Developing practitioners' skills in identifying and supporting SLCN at the earliest possible time helps to minimise the impact SLCN may have on children and young people. Platform 3 can support this by raising the skill level of the children and young people's workforce and increasing the quality of settings, which leads to better outcomes for children and young people.

Pupil Premium

Strategically Platform 3 is well placed within the early years, school and wider children and young people's workforce to meet key policy drivers, in particular, increasing the skills and knowledge of the workforce, and effective use of both the Pupil Premium (PP) and the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).

Platform 3 is an example of how a setting may use Early Years Pupil Premium to support the professional development of the workforce and to increase early identification and intervention, and support better outcomes for all children, particularly in settings where there are high levels of social deprivation.

This applies even further to Pupil Premium, where Platform 3 could be delivered to 2-3 members of staff under one pupil's funding. This has the potential to therefore support systematic changes in knowledge, understanding and practice of staff routinely working with children and young people with language difficulties.

For more information on delivering or completing this Level 3 Award through Platform 3, please visit www.platform3online.org.uk. Or register your interest by emailing enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk