

Case study of local good practice in identifying children with SLCN

Broom Barns Community Primary School

Hertfordshire

Screening and analysis

Staff at Broom Barns screen all children's speech, language and communication skills, whether they start at nursery or transfer to the primary school. For children aged six or under, they use the WellComm toolkit. If any communication concerns are flagged up, staff carry out further tests using The Communication Trust's Progression Tools and other screening resources. This helps the school to identify which targeted interventions (such as 'Talk Boost') are most suited to the child. Identified children in nursery and reception years are then re-assessed termly. This process is aided by a highly-skilled team, which includes a nursery teacher who is trained as a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) and two teaching assistants who received training on supporting children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) from the accredited provider Elklan.

The senior leadership team monitor the prevalence of SLCN at Broom Barns in relation to local, regional and national data. External figures come

from a variety of sources, including their local authority, I CAN's website and the Department for Education's schools census. Comparing data allows the team to monitor trends, such as increases and decreases in the number of pupils with SLCN and explore possible causes.

Working in partnership

The school employs a speech and language therapist (SLT) who provides support to identified children and advice to teachers on using universal and targeted strategies in the classroom. The SLT also observes Talk Boost sessions, delivered by teaching assistants, to ensure that the right children have been selected for the 10-week intervention.

The school maintains good links with the local authority specialist advisory service, who come to the school to work with pupils at a targeted level. Broom Barns are also part of a 'cluster of schools' that share problems and ideas relating to speech, language and communication.

Introduction

Broom Barns Community Primary School and Nursery is in Stevenage, Hertfordshire and caters for children aged 3 to 11. There is a high prevalence of SLCN in the area, with around 70% of children below expected levels at school entry age. The school took part in The Communication Trust's 'Talk of The Town' Project in 2011 and 2012 and were highly commended in the Best Primary School category at the 2017 Shine a Light Awards.



A bespoke training package

Speech, language and communication feature in Broom Barns' staff induction package, monitoring schedule and school policy. In addition, teachers receive a series of training sessions delivered by the NHS and school SLTs. These cover the importance of communication skills and approaches to identify and support pupils with SLCN.



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