

Little Link Intervention Pilot Summary



Little Link is a SLCN package created for pre-school settings. It encompasses a standardised assessment to identify language needs, training toolkit for staff, and universal language enrichment intervention designed to benefit all children.

Over the 2024-25 academic year the Little Link package was piloted in a range of nursery settings. The settings were randomised into two groups

-  12 experimental nursery settings used the Little Link package
-  12 control nursery settings continued with business as usual

The following areas were measured at the start and the end of the project

-  Children's language skills
-  Child school readiness
-  Staff knowledge and confidence in supporting SLCN

The 12 Little Link settings used all aspects of the package across the year

-  Staff completed the training Toolkit
-  Children were screened using the Little Link assessment
-  Staff ran the 12-week language enrichment intervention

Summary of Results

- Children in the experimental settings made more progress with their language skills, particularly vocabulary and grammar (structure and organisation) of their spoken sentences, than the children in control settings
- Highly significant differences were found in measures of school readiness and social use of language for children who had received the Little Link intervention, compared to children who hadn't.
- Importantly improvements were seen for children learning EAL and children with identified language difficulties, indicating Little Link is an effective intervention to help settings close the attainment gap.
- Staff enjoyed using the package and a significant majority saw improvements in the language skills and engagement of the children they supported. There was evidence that staff use of strategies and focus on supporting language areas had continued beyond the intervention.

What did the staff say?

We have really enjoyed working with Little Link assessment and intervention. It has had a positive impact on our children who really enjoyed the stories and activities. The children have been using the daily language and in the right context. Little Link was easy to use and implement, especially with the lesson plans and guides. The use of resources, that had been designed around what we already have in the Nursery, made things easy to put together and use.

Kelly, Nursery Supervisor, Kent

