

## **CASE STUDY: UPDATED July 2024**

# **Remote Delivery of Speech and Language Therapy in Early Years Settings – A Partnership with Essex County Council**

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### **Introduction:**

Speech Club is an innovative online Speech and Language Therapy course, providing structured video content for children. This service, presented by two qualified Speech and Language Therapists, is aimed at children identified by nurseries as having delayed Speech and Language skills. It serves as an early intervention measure, especially for children who are yet to access individual community SLT services.

### **Service Overview:**

The course content is rich, inclusive of handouts, parent information booklets, progress and assessment tools, and information for teaching assistants. Initially designed for family usage at home, Speech Club evolved to be incorporated within preschool settings, receiving positive feedback and subsequently being adapted to suit such environments better.

### **Objective and Methodology:**

Essex County Council, seeking to level up their educational plans, conducted a pilot study with Speech Club in seven nurseries. The objective was to assess the effectiveness of Speech Club and its impact on children and families accessing it. Observations and feedback were meticulously recorded to evaluate the program's success and adaptability.

### **Impact and Observations:**

Following the successful trial in seven nurseries, Essex County Council has offered the program to 42 different nursery settings. The participating nurseries observed substantial engagement and responsiveness from the children, noting:

- Improved attention and listening
- Enhanced peer interactions and friendship groups
- Complementarity with other Speech and Language interventions
- Ease of use and adaptability of the website and its content

**\*\*\* SEE BELOW FOR JULY 2024 LATEST UPDATE on Impact & Observations**

### **\*\*\* JULY 2024 LATEST UPDATE on Impact & Observations**

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27 early years settings have signed up to the Speech Club programme across all quadrants in Essex. We have had positive feedback via email about the resource and I have shared this information in more detail below.

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#### **Feedback from Practitioners / Managers / Sencos**

- The website is easy to use and navigate. Staff can clearly see what resources have been accessed to show progression or offer repeated sessions where necessary. The sequence of videos is easy to follow, which results in less time planning and more time with the children.
- The printable resources are very useful and compliment the videos well. The children love the follow up activities, such as learning about eye contact in the videos and then making eye masks in the creative area.
- The additional information which compliments the videos has helpful tips for practitioners, this has helped the staff to further develop their understanding around speech, language and communication.
- The assessment tool is a useful and easy to understand and complete. This has given the staff confidence in assessing and monitoring impact.
- The resources have been used in a variety of different ways such as 1:1 for targeted support, small groups, and whole groups sessions. The flexibility of the resource allows the individual children to meet the needs of the children and how the setting works.

#### **Feedback about how children are enjoying the resource**

- The children are really enjoying the interactive videos and the printable resources. When the videos are shared the children are enthusiastic.

They are demonstrating better attention and listening skills, taking part in the activities by making comments and using some of the modelled language.

- Children are becoming familiar with the videos and using new language.
- The children show positive responses through their body language and facial expressions when watching the videos. Some of the older children are recalling what happens next and using the new language in their experiences.
- Those children using the resource both in the setting and at home are becoming more confident and engaging more with us.
- The settings have noticed that children have just started to develop their social communication and are beginning to enjoy playing with their peers and starting to engage with them through play.

### **Impact on children and families**

Some parents have requested the vouchers to use the resource at home, as there is only have 10 the settings need to choose the families carefully, however all children have access to the resource in the setting.

Those families who have got access to the resource at home are actively using it and the families have become more confident at talking to their children.

Actively accessed at home by the families. The feedback from families has been very positive and has offered them inspiration on what they can do at home.

### **Measuring Progress:**

The progress chart provided by Speech Club serves as a pivotal tool to monitor children's advancements and to communicate these developments to parents. This structured approach has been acknowledged as making a tangible difference in the developmental trajectory of the participating children, with settings gradually developing their expertise and effectively integrating this additional resource.

### **Customization and Adaptation:**

Nurseries have employed various strategies to maximize the benefits of Speech Club, such as:

- Assigning speech buddies to each child to enhance interaction.

- Assigning dedicated staff members to implement Speech Club, enabling effective engagement.
- Encouraging parent involvement to ensure continuity of progress at home.
- Utilising progress information to demonstrate added support for Speech, Language, and Communication to Ofsted.
- Continual implementation of activities suggested by Speech Club throughout the week.

### **Conclusion:**

The implementation of Speech Club within the Essex nurseries has demonstrated the program's efficacy and adaptability in early years settings.

The positive impact observed in the children's developmental progress, combined with the ease of integration and customization of the program, underscores its potential as a valuable resource in addressing Speech, Language, and Communication needs in early education. The continuity and regular implementation of Speech Club's activities have been identified as crucial in sustaining and enhancing the developmental gains achieved.

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### **Further staff Quotes:**

*"It seems to be making a difference, which is what it's all about. So we're thrilled."*

*"The children are really responding well to the activities and we've already seen an impact."*

*"It's a really good resource and a good reminder of activities, especially for those simple things like attention and listening, which often they said that they sometimes forget about. But then when they've watched the videos and focused on that, they've really appreciated why they need to focus on attention and listening."*

*"The children are really engaged, especially when the adult is really familiar with the lessons and know when to pause the video and engage with the children."*

*"Our settings also use TalkBoost but they said that actually the two together have really complement each other really well."*

*"In one nursery they've chosen specific children that they think would benefit from Speech Club but then they invited their best friends in order to develop their friends skills in communicating with their peers. It's really built up their friendship groups."*

*"We also use Elkan training and it's really just brought things together, you know, where they're focusing on an intervention, but then their overall practice is really improving as well. Speech Club adds an extra dimension."*

*"The website's really easy to use. The children like the props with the activities They're planning to use it within small groups"*

*"There has been a lot of positive feedback about the progress chart as well."*

*"For me, it feels that the settings have gradually over the years been developing their own expertise, whether that be funded opportunities or self funded. And then they've got this extra resource that they've just been able to put in place really simply."*

*"We are hoping it's going to have a long term effect for these children, as some interventions are very short sighted."*

**Further Information:**

For additional details, please visit [SpeechClub.com](https://www.speechclub.com)