



## Better Start Bradford Innovation Hub- Language and Communication Workstream

### About the Language and Communication Workstream

Language and communication are broad terms that denote a wide range of skills that we use to interact with each other. Children's learning about language begins even before they are born, when they hear their mother's voice in the womb, and continues from birth. Becoming a successful communicator is a long process, and one that requires large amounts of input from adults. Parents and carers play a vital role in how much and how well a child learns to talk, and children who hear lots of language and speak to attentive and reactive adults go on to have better communication skills when they are older. Language skills also form the basis for other important areas of a child's development, including their social and emotional well-being and their school readiness. Children who start school with oral language difficulties are at risk of struggling to keep up with the school curriculum, and children from more deprived backgrounds are at particular risk of language weaknesses. With this in mind, the focus of the Language and Communication workstream is to consider the design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions to support children's early language development as a solid foundation for literacy development and school achievement. Within the Better Start Bradford (BSB) interventions, interventions that focus on children's language and communication provide information and support for parents to help them improve their language interactions with children, to develop positive home learning environments, and to encourage parents to engage in early literacy activities such as shared book reading. The effectiveness of these interventions will be evaluated using a variety of methodologies, and will focus both on the suitability of the programmes for the Bradford population as well as their impact on parents and children.

### People

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### Relevant links

[Words for Life](#) – Information about children's language development, including links to research and activities for parents

[Talk to your baby](#) – The National Literacy Trust's project to support literacy in children, with information for practitioners

[Talking point](#) – A resource for information about children's communication milestones, with specific information for parents and professionals

