

Warwickshire 'time to talk'TM

Evaluation Summary 2017-2018

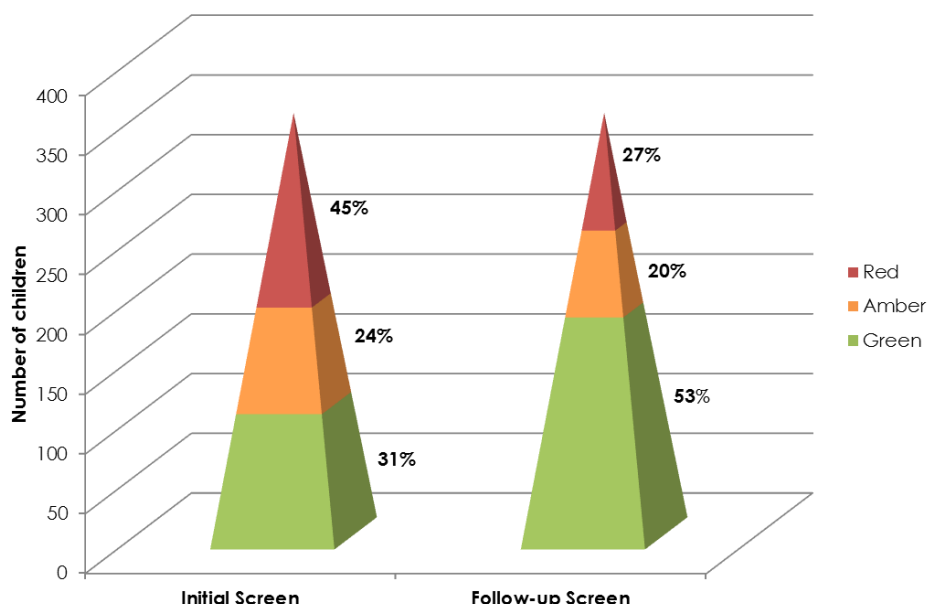


Our vision: to create and celebrate opportunities for all children to achieve their potential in speech, language and communication, working together with, and in response to the needs of local communities.

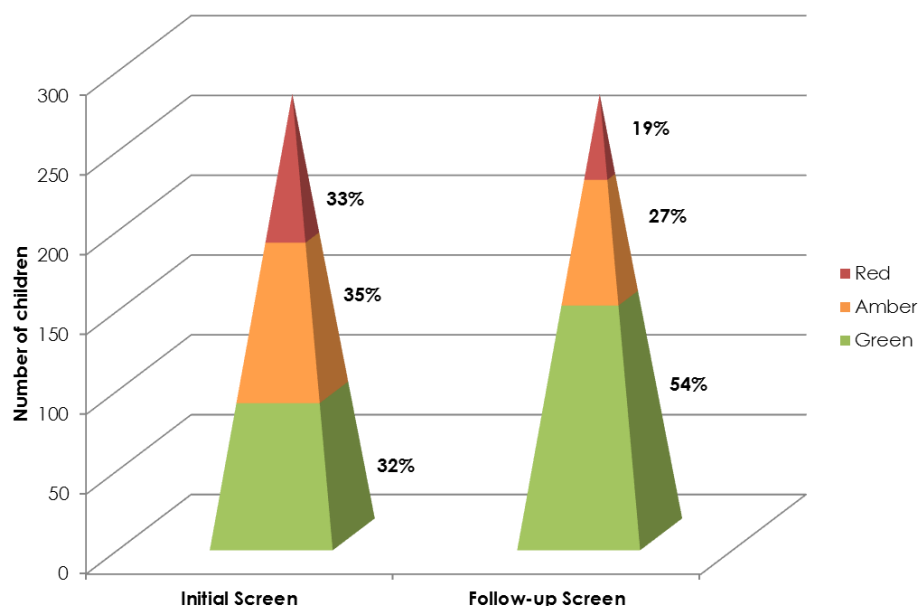
The academic year 2017-18 marks the seventh year in which 'time to talk'TM has collected annual data from trained speech and language champions to monitor the impact of sustaining the strategy. Champions from early years settings, were asked to submit data at two points within the year, before and after providing intervention or support. The children reported on were identified as children at risk of language delay.

WellComm Data 2017-2018 (352 Children)

WellComm data was analysed for 352 children who attend settings that opt to sustain the 'time to talk'TM strategy. By follow-up, the proportion of children achieving their full language potential (green level) had increased from 31% to 53%. The number still requiring a 'red' level of support decreased from 45% to 27%. These figures replicate the outcomes for each year that 'time to talk'TM have collected data.



Attention & Listening Data 2017-18 (276 Children)



The WellComm screen is a measure of children's understanding and spoken language. 'time to talk' also records children's level of attention and listening skills - skills crucial for language to flourish. Those at 'green' level increased from 32% to 54%. Those still requiring 'red' level of support decreased from 33% to 19% across the academic year. Thank you to all the teams involved!

Targeted Work - Closing the Gap



Project Summary

20 settings (11 schools, 9 pre-schools/nurseries) took part in the project, aiming to support school readiness by ensuring that practitioners are knowledgeable and confident in delivering strategies which are known to help children develop effective communication and language skills. This included Tier 1-3 training for 19 new Speech and Language Champions and VERVE child interaction therapy (in depth video reflection) for 21 selected practitioners. All of them reported confidence in the subjects covered and were able to identify changes in their practice across the training.

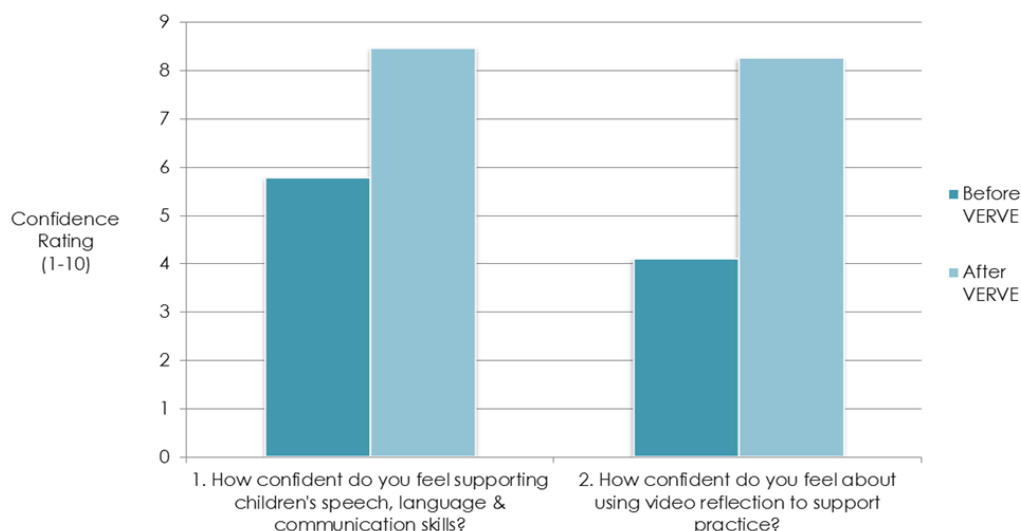
"Helped me understand challenges of learning to talk. Understand how important simple spoken language is to children."

"Given me new ideas to make my practice better."

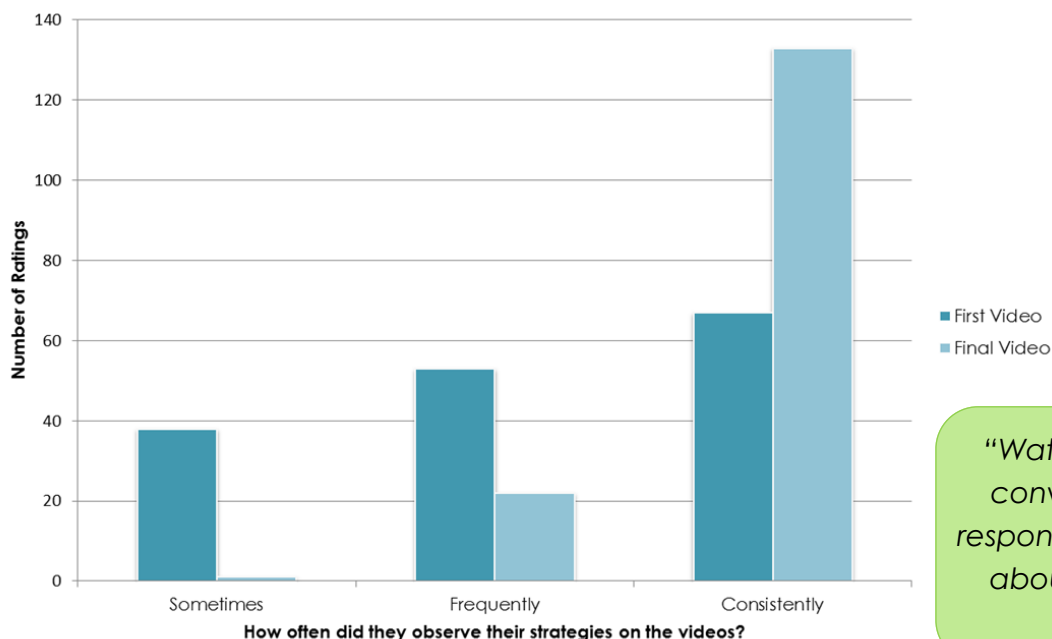
"Make me more aware of the child's level of language as well as my own when communicating with children."

This year, the participating schools and settings were also invited to choose some bespoke training for their teams during the summer term. This has proved to be a successful adaptation of the programme with teams opting for either Tier 1, 'Being Bilingual' or parent workshops depending on their need. This bespoke training reached a further 74 practitioners and parents.

Practitioners' Confidence Ratings



Practitioners' Self-Ratings



Outcomes

Practitioners who took part in VERVE have demonstrated their knowledge, understanding and application of strategies (evidenced on video) that support speech, language and communication.

"Watching before engaging in conversation, [giving] positive response, [feeling] more confident about gathering evidence for assessment too."

Targeted Work - Closing the Gap



"I give the children longer to answer without answering for them or asking questions too early. This has made me realise it isn't that some children don't know the answer, they may just need longer to answer."

"It has helped me to reflect upon my practice and I found it very helpful to see how much questioning and overloading with information I had previously been doing."

"It has helped myself and colleagues change some of the ways we work in our practice to help the children who need extra support with certain areas of their language"

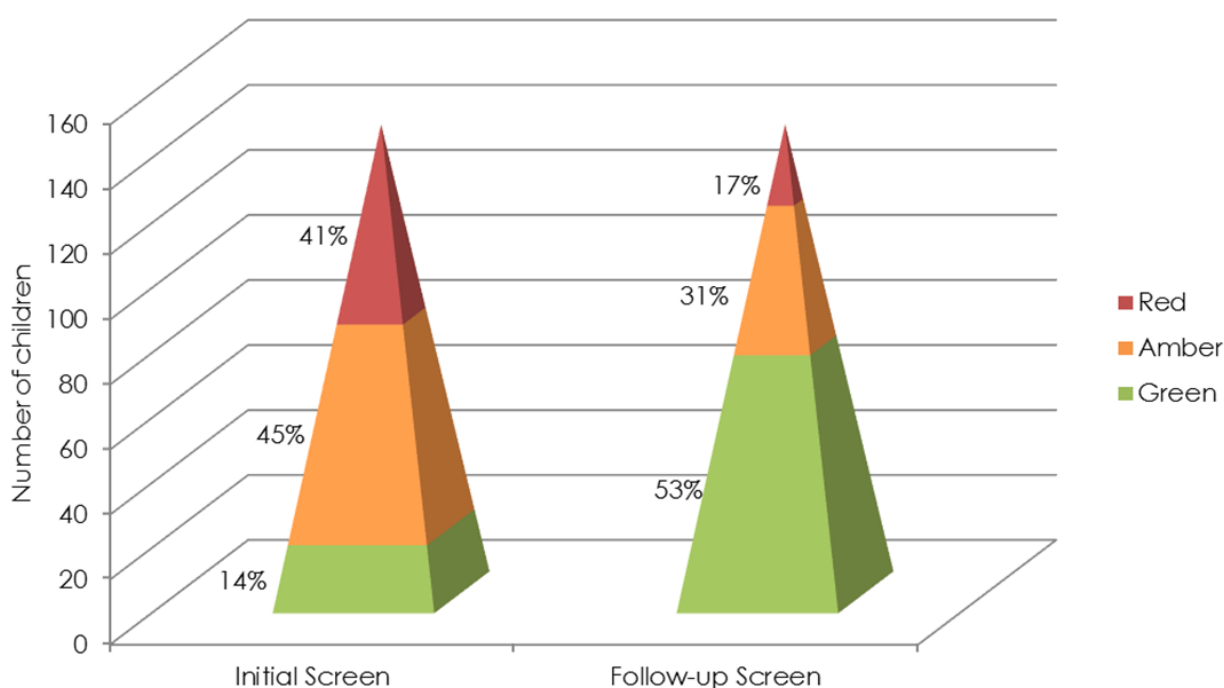
"I wait for the child to communicate first. I give lots of praise, even if it is just facial expression. I listen properly to the child and pause, allowing the child to reply."

"I have noticed a big change in the language that I use when speaking to the children, a lot less questions, eye contact, waiting, match and add strategy etc."

"I had no idea of the impact it would have and how incredibly important this small adjustment to my teaching is."

"I have actually enjoyed watching X blossom in the videos."

Closing the Gap WellComm Data - 2017-18 (144 children)



Children attending the Closing the Gap schools and settings have made gains in their understanding and use of spoken language as measured by the WellComm screen. Results show significant improvements in communication skills, with 76 of the children tracked (53%) ending the year with an age appropriate (green) score (a rise from 14%). The number still scoring red was more than halved.

The newly trained Speech and Language Champions are now able to support continued implementation and support the strategy across their settings. They will be able to access continued support from the **'time to talk'**™ network via cluster meetings, the website and SLT liaison.

Sustaining and Extending 'time to talk'™



Our principles: prevention • early identification • early intervention • integrated and holistic services • effective training • easy accessibility • communication friendly environments

Training Delivered (in addition to Closing The Gap)

- 88 practitioners attended Tier 1 training.
- 19 Speech and Language Champions trained to Tier 2
- 12 Speech and Language Champions trained to Tier 3
- 5 practitioners attended **'Being Bilingual'** training.
- 12 Library practitioners attended bespoke training.
- 6 termly cluster meetings were held across three localities as well as the countywide conference.
- SLTs from the wider team were involved in delivering training and supporting the conference. With thanks to Louise Perry, Cate Cooke, Charlie Ayling, Lorna McKirgan, Elizabeth Roche, Kate Clements, Alex Moss and Janki Meghani.



Partnerships

- Hill Close Gardens worked with **'time to talk'™** to create **'chatter matters'™** in the garden. The session plans are now available on the **'time to talk'™** website.
- Thank you to the Warwickshire Family Information Service (FIS) and Smart Start for sharing **'chatter matters'™** posts to support **'chatter matters'™** week.
- The Community Pre-School and **'time to talk'™** SLT teams continued to work together to provide regular drop-in sessions for families to access informal advice and support in community venues. Of the 532 children referred to drop-ins, 64% were under 3 years of age.
- Planning for the **Bedworth Bottle Swap** to be launched Autumn 2018
- Participation in the **'Baby and me'** multi-agency sessions at Warwickshire libraries
- Multi-agency collaboration to create a Warwickshire-wide **School Readiness Policy**.



Scarecrow
Joe

Conference

Our annual conference took place in March 2018 in Leamington, welcoming practitioners from children's centres, schools, pre-schools and nurseries to the day. Our theme was **'chatter matters – across the generations'**. We heard all about the newly published 'Bercow: Ten Years On' report from Jean Gross, CBE, in her key-note speech: 'Past and present – the state of the nation for communication' and from Dr Claire Noble about 'The Reading Together Project'. We took part in

workshops about developing vocabulary and building speech and language therapy targets into play.

We also heard short talks from a range of local and national colleagues. We created a display about the songs we remembered from our own childhoods and we launched our wooden spoon craft display for **'chatter matters week'**, as well as our emoji nursery rhyme quiz! These were ideas to engage communities with the value of singing nursery rhymes with children. Traditional rhymes presented in modern ways!



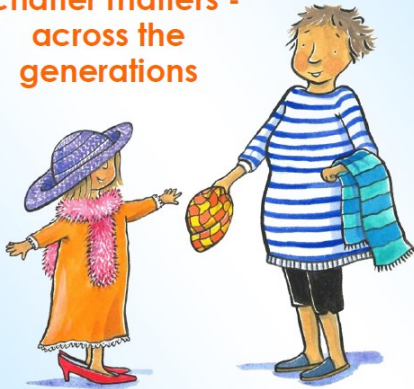
Celebrating 'time to talk'™



'chatter matters week'

'chatter matters'™ week
19th - 23rd March 2018

chatter matters -
across the
generations



To find out more call in at your local children's centre or nursery

f Warwickshire 'time to talk'™
www.timetotalkwarwickshire.wordpress.com



In March, we celebrated '**chatter matters week**', continuing the theme '**chatter matters - across the generations**'. Thanks to Molly from Birmingham City University for helping to design the flyer. We invited settings and volunteers (older and younger!) to get involved by making simple wooden spoon puppets to help children keep in touch with singing nursery rhymes.

Hundreds of wooden spoon puppets were created throughout the county and were given away for practitioners to use with their children. Thank you to all the volunteers who created puppets



and to Hobbycraft in Coventry for donating craft resources.



Many of our '**time to talk**'™ champions organised local events to celebrate '**chatter matters - across the generations**' - visiting residential homes, inviting grandparents in for singing and wooden spoon craft, creating displays and talking to parents about the rhymes that they could remember. We also shared our emoji nursery rhyme quiz online and our network joined in, reaching over 7000 people! Thank you to

everybody who got involved in making '**chatter matters week**' a great success.



National Recognition for 'time to talk'™



Bercow: Ten Years On



In March 2018 a report called Bercow: Ten Years On was published by the children's communication charity I CAN and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. The report is an independent, national review of support for children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). It follows on from a review published in 2008 called The Bercow Report. Warwickshire 'time to talk'™ contributed evidence to this review and the programme is highlighted in the report as an example of outstanding practice (see page 12).

THE DIFFERENCE THAT CAN BE MADE

We heard examples of excellent local initiatives recognising the crucial role of communication and prioritising language to tackle social disadvantage in the early years.



GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Warwickshire Time to Talk prioritises speech, language and communication. They have expanded and contracted as funding changed, developing traded services and thinking creatively. They collect data each year, evidencing impact. They train champions, some with level 3 qualifications - 98% of settings now have a champion. They spread the word locally with leaflets, multi media campaigns, films and growing social media networks. Their promotional week is in its fifth year.

The report makes many recommendations for improving services for children's speech, language and communication. Following the publication of this report, Gillian Rudd, a Speech and Language Therapist from Birmingham, began an online petition, asking the government to implement the recommendations of the Bercow: Ten Years On report. 'time to talk'™ champions and colleagues have helped by signing and encouraging others to sign to make sure that this report reached MPs' attention. All six Warwickshire constituencies are well-represented on the petition map thanks largely to the 'time to talk'™ network.

National Conferences

Melanie Packer represented 'time to talk'™ at the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists Conference in the 'Service Delivery' stream with a presentation about the strategic approach in Warwickshire as well as at the Children and Young People Now Conference. Invitations to present at these events demonstrate that other parts of the UK are interested to learn from the approach in Warwickshire.



Public Health England

Public Health England have formed a partnership with the Department for Education (DfE) to address the widely publicised 'word gap' and inequalities associated with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) in the early years.

The programme of work includes:

- Training for Health Visitors on SLCN
- The introduction of an early language assessment tool to support clinical decision making
- The development of a model pathway for services for children 0-5 to promote language and early identification/interventions for children with SLCN

Deborah Powers represented Warwickshire at a national evidence-gathering workshop, presenting the 'time to talk'™ programme as an example of innovative, evidence-driven practice from which the national model pathway will be informed. Watch this space!