

We will also continue to work with parents in understanding the developmental needs of their children and provide practical activities through the Pennywell Family Talk Project.



pennywell
early years centre

Pennywell Publications

The Pennywell Curriculum and Launchpad for Literacy

Developing Early Literacy Skills



The Pennywell Context

Home visit information, key worker observation, assessment and data analysis clearly identify the levels of developmental presentation in speech language and communication and reading and writing skills which are below the children's chronological age on entry to the Centre at each age phase.

A large number of our children have delayed speech and language skills, particularly in listening and attention, speaking and understanding. Limited vocabulary, conceptual understanding and gaps in receptive and expressive language are evident from our observations and assessments of learning.



A number of initiatives have been utilised over time with evidence of strong impact on learning. The Centre continues to use ECAT (Every Child a Talker), ICAN which draws on the TALKBOOST programme and BLAST (Boosting Language) to support and target specific groups. Additionally the Centre's "Pennywell Family Talk Project" provides practical activities to develop parent understanding of literacy skill development. The Centre also places a strong emphasis on the highest quality resources and reading/writing areas to motivate and stimulate playing, talking and thinking.

Development

The aim in using the Launchpad Framework for the Centre is to continually improve practice for better teaching and learning. This is sustained through strong practitioner understanding about why we work in a particular way and how the curriculum is delivered to have impact on effective learning. Launchpad for Literacy supports our reflective practice. We are currently focusing on how we close the Vocabulary Gap. For each cohort of children accurate assessment will enable effective identification of need and selection of main session and targeted strategies.





- In line with the Centre's current curriculum development activity and improvements in the clarity of INTENT, IMPLEMENTATION and IMPACT with emphasis on the area of literacy we asked ourselves:
- How can we ensure our early literacy approaches support the development of knowledge, skills and understanding for all children (INTENT)?
 - How can we ensure our practitioners accurately identify children's current level of development in all areas of SLC and Literacy? (Knowledge to clarify INTENT)
 - How can we enable our practitioner's to deliver the highest quality teaching and learning? (IMPLEMENTATION)
 - What training do we need which supports skills in the developmental approaches to teaching early years literacy?
 - How can we support observation, assessment, tracking, planning, quality interactions and reflective practice across every age phase?
 - How do we assess and measure the IMPACT of our strategies to ensure the most effective quality first teaching and learning approaches are utilised?



For Pennywell Early Years Centre, Launchpad to Literacy is the ideal framework in ensuring clear, INTENT, IMPLEMENTATION and IMPACT across the curriculum.

Actions

The Head Teacher had previously undertaken Launchpad for Literacy training and had worked with Kirstie Page as she had introduced the Framework. Launchpad for Literacy has practitioner understanding and skill development of the theory behind the approach (INTENT), strategies for effective delivery (IMPLEMENTATION), and assessment to judge quality of the IMPACT.

All staff have had training. Targeted assessment has taken place to trial the IMPACT on specific areas. Work has been focused on curriculum links with Launchpad activities and vocabulary development.

The Framework enables us to focus on the skills children need to build the foundations for their literacy development. Gaps are more easily identified and strategies speedily employed. The recent (December 2019) work Kirstie Page has undertaken with SALT (Speech and Language Therapy Service) also means that our advised interventions are now more closely linked and more effective.

