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| WHOLESTART |
|  | | Broadgate House  Coventry: Education Improvement & Standards Team  People Directorate, Coventry City Council  Broadgate House, Coventry, CV1 1FS  Tel: 024 7697 6291 / 024 7697 5451  [www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk)  E-mail: EYcentral@coventry.gov.uk  Phone: 024 7697 6291 / 024 7697 5451 |
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| By Email  22 April 2024 | |

**Free Training: Wellcomm and Speech Language and Communication**

Dear Colleagues

In June 2023 the Early Years team carried out a survey with all Early Years providers and Schools to understand the need for training related to Speech, Language and Communication, alongside the effective use of the Wellcomm Screening Tool, to identify speech and language difficulties and support children’s individual needs. There was a fabulous response rate of 83% to the survey. This told us that:

* 85% had not accessed any training in the past 3 years.
* 79% stated they required training.

The Start for Life Programme enabled us to respond to this with an offer of a **free** training session, suitable for practitioners working with children from birth to five years old with a place for every school, nursery, and child-minding organisation across the city.

The first roll out of this training took place in March and April with 29% of Early Years organisations taking up the offer. The initial course is 3 hours long and enables practitioners to:

* Understand the importance of identifying gaps in speech, language and communication early.
* Develop the skills and confidence to use the Wellcomm speech and language screening tool, alongside the ‘Big Book of Ideas’ to deliver accurate intervention to address issues.
* Enable networking and the sharing of good practice.

There are two further levels of training suitable for early years SENCO’s / EYFS Leaders and Childminders, leading to a ‘specialist practitioner’ standard of training and enabling us to create a network of ‘Early Years Communication Champions across the city.

However, before we embark on the next tier of training, our target is for a minimum of 60% of Early Years organisations to attend the entry level training. Therefore, we will be offering a series of further dates.

I appreciate it is difficult to release staff to attend training in the current climate, but when we have to repeat training sessions it limits the number of free places that can be provided on Tier 2 and Tier 3 training going forward. Please could I ask that you do your very best to attend this training which is based on the latest research.

You can book onto the training at this link: [Wellcomm Training](https://bookwhen.com/eycoursebooking#focus=ev-sm86-20240502180000)

A member of my team will also be in contact with you in the near future to assist with booking arrangements.

Yours sincerely

Amanda King

Senior Adviser: Birth to Five Coventry City Council