



## Learning Language and Loving It

State-maintained and private, voluntary, and independent nurseries are being invited to take part in funded professional development called ***Learning Language and Loving It—The Hanen Program®*** for Early Childhood Educators.

### **Hanen LLLI training:**

Participants discover how to create the best possible learning opportunities in the nursery.

During Learning Language and Loving It, you will learn practical strategies for helping all children in the classroom to build language, emergent literacy and social skills, no matter what their learning and communication styles are, and even if they have special needs.

The strategies can be easily woven into everyday activities. Each strategy is designed to engage and maintain the interest of the child, making language and literacy-learning a fun and natural part of their day.

The programme will provide you with ample opportunity to practice each strategy with the children, and to receive feedback from your Program Leader to help you adapt the strategies, as needed.

These strategies include encouraging children to initiate and engage in conversational interactions, encouraging extended individual and group conversations between adults and children, and supporting adults with how to model more sophisticated language to expand children’s oral language.

**This project** is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and Department for Education (DfE) and will evaluate the impact of the training on children’s language outcomes as well as nursery staff’s experiences of the programme. To do this, the research involves randomly allocating half of participating nurseries to receive the training and the other half to a comparison group, who instead are provided with a £1000 thank you payment on completion of the research activities.

The training will start from **October running until July 2023** and will be delivered by Hanen-licenced Speech and Language Therapists and Early Years teachers working on behalf of Communicate SLT CIC.

Participants will access **9 group workshops (each 2.5 hours) interspersed with 8 individual coaching sessions** where participants use videos of their interactions with children to reflect on their practice. Following feedback from the EEF’s first trial of LLLI, 6 of the 9 group workshops will be provided through live online webinars and 6 of the 8 video review sessions will take place via video call.



“I would definitely recommend this program to other teachers. You will come away enriched with new ideas about interaction techniques and curriculum planning.”

“We have learned so much about language and communication development in young children. The results from the changes we have made in our styles of interaction and communication with the children are quite evident.”



## Learning Language and Loving It

### Nurseries who receive the training will benefit from:

- Funded CPD opportunity for 2/3rds of staff who work with children in your nursery.
- 1:1 personalised coaching from speech and language therapists and early years experts
- High quality and internationally researched training that provides guidance for Early Years practitioners in promoting social, language and literacy learning in Early Years settings.
- An approach which enhances the everyday language learning environment for every child in the setting, including children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs, those with or at risk of delay, second-language learners and typically developing children.
- Reimbursements for **50% of cover costs for workshop attendance**.
- Opportunity to inform practice in a national evaluation of what works in early years.

### More information can be found by:

1. Visiting <https://communicate-slt.org.uk/services/eef-llli-trial> and completing an online form to register your interest.
2. Attending an information event which will be taking place in various locations from March - June 2022.

### To be eligible for the project all nurseries must:

- Have onsite access to a computer with an internet connection as well as a device, such as a tablet. This technology is required to record videos of staff-pupil interactions and upload onto a secure online access point for the video review sessions. If an early years setting does not have access to a tablet or recording device, the EEF may supply one.
- A computer or laptop with webcam and microphone, as well as email access to take part in the online live workshops.
- Ideally have 17 or more pre-school children (those turning 4 between Sept 2022 – Aug 2022) on roll this Autumn. Settings with 12 or more children may still be able to take part. For profit nurseries are also required to have children eligible for EY pupil premium on roll.
- Be located in one of three DfE regional school commissioner regions: 'The North', 'East Midlands and the Humber' or 'West Midlands' (see [here](#) for full list of eligible areas by local authority)
- Nominate a senior member of staff (such as the nursery teacher or room lead) to take part in the training who can support other colleagues with the programme.
- Complete and return a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

**N.B.** Nurseries who sign-up to take part will be randomly allocated to either a treatment or control group. The treatment group will receive the training. The control group will not, however, all nurseries will be required to take part activities set out in the evaluation information leaflet. As a thank you, nurseries in the control group will receive £1,000 in July 2023 on completion of the research activities.

