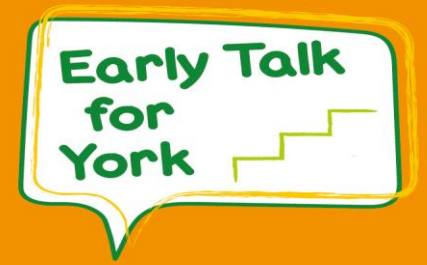


Early Talk for York update report September 2022



Introduction

Early Talk for York is an approach to improve speech, language and communication of children aged 0 to 5 years.

Good communication skills at 5 years of age are strongly linked with a range of positive outcomes in later life, including: reading and writing skills; employment and mental and physical health and wellbeing

More information about Early Talk for York, including previous reports on progress can be found at www.york.gov.uk/EarlyTalkForYork This report is an update on the progress of the roll out of Early Talk for York and latest impact evaluation findings.

Headline activity 2021 - 22

A further 12 schools and settings joined the full Early Talk for York approach making the total 29 across the city. These organisations between them serve a total of approximately 1200 children aged 2 – 5 years and many also serve more children aged 0 – 2 years. More than half of these settings have now achieved 'Communication Friendly Setting status' meaning that their whole staff team have taken part in accredited, quality assured training and that their practice and provision has been independently audited. The majority of the others are on track to achieve this during the early part of 2022 – 23.

91 (76%) schools and group based settings in York are now using the standardised screening tool to universally screen children (the first step of Early Talk for York) with many childminders also doing the same via a library lending service. These settings serve at least 3500 children aged 2-5 years and many also serve many more children aged 0 – 2 years

7 schools have worked closely with City of York Council's Family Learning team to work directly with families to support the development of the home learning environment. This work has been independently evaluated by Huntington Research School and a report detailing the findings will be available shortly. Early indications show a promising model emerging around parental engagement and this work will continue in 2022-23.

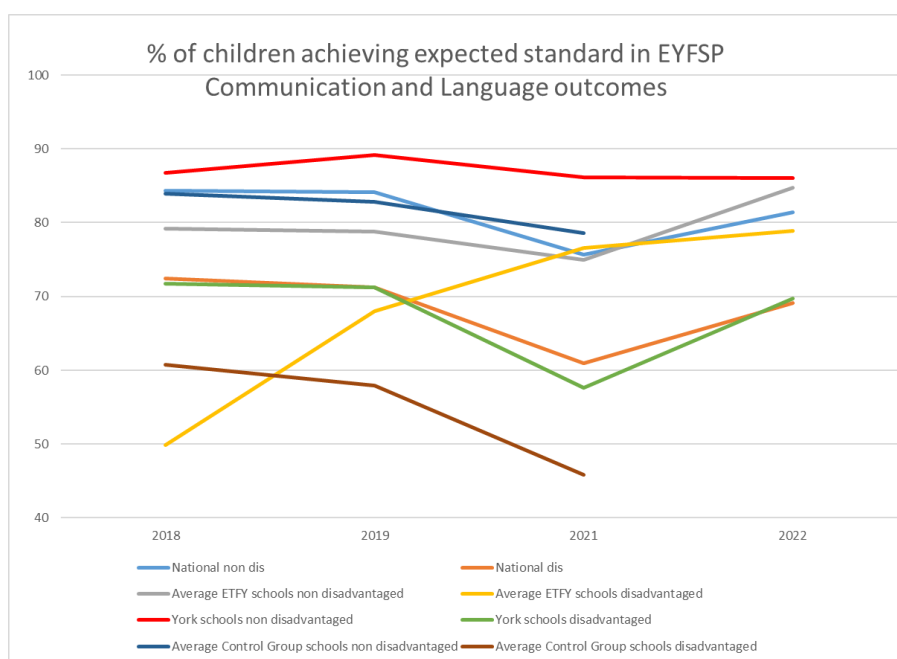
City of York Council's Healthy Child Service has continued to develop its practice in line with the Early Talk for York principles and has now trained all practitioners in the use of the Early Language Identification Measure which is being used to universally screen all 2 years olds at the mandated contact. The team is currently working with approximately 60 families where speech, language or communication difficulties have been identified through screening.

The University of York continues to support Early Talk for York by providing volunteer, specially trained student placements to support the implementation of Early Talk for York. Autumn 2022 will see more than 40 'York Students in Schools' students placed in early years settings across the city. The University is also exploring how placements in Early Talk for York schools and settings can be embedded into some of their relevant taught programmes.

The Early Talk for York team continues to work closely with specialist services at York Teaching Hospital to further develop ways of working to ensure best use of limited specialist support and resources.

Impact

We continue to track the impact of Early Talk for York using the statutory assessment of children's development at age 5 using the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP). This framework changed in 2022 and children were assessed against revised criteria. This has implications for exact year on year comparisons, however the trends and comparisons between groups remains useful for us to understand more about the impact that this approach is having.



The 'gap' between non disadvantaged children nationally and disadvantaged children in the ETFY area has reduced from 34.5% (2018) to 2.5% (2022) This data provides further confidence that Early Talk for York is meeting its primary objective of improving outcomes in speech, language and communication for all children with a particular positive benefit for disadvantaged children in the city.

Next steps:

1. Continue the roll out and scale up of the Early Talk for York approach – in particular facilitating access to high quality training for a greater proportion of the diverse early years workforce and partner organisations.
2. Further strengthen and embed partnership working between organisations working on Early Talk for York to maximise potential impact.
3. Review and publish an updated speech, language and communication pathway for the city to help with consistency of approach in line with Early Talk for York.

