

# Language Leads in Oxfordshire

*Are you passionate about children's  
early language development?  
Would you like to build on your leadership skills?*



We want to offer the right support so that early years settings make a positive difference to all children's communication skills, including children with speech, language, and communication needs. Join us as a Language Lead as we continue the journey in Oxfordshire together.

## Communication is everyone's business!

Language at two years-old predicts reading, maths and writing when children start school.....The need to support speech, language and communication skills in children younger than school age is clear, and the benefits that intervention at this age can bring are powerful. \*

*\*Department for Education. (2023, 30 November). Early years foundation stage profile results, Academic year 2022/23 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK ([explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk))*

The Public Health England report, Best start in speech, language and communication: supporting evidence, sets out how fundamental the early years are in the development of speech, language and communication skills and makes the case for the prioritisation of the first 1,000 days of life and the time up to the transition to school.\*

*\*Public Health England. (2020). Best start in speech, language and communication: Supporting evidence. London: PHE Publications: Best Start in Speech, Language and Communication: Supporting evidence ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))*

Taken from [Getting-in-early-report-FINAL.pdf \(speechandlanguage.org.uk\)](#)

## What is a 'Language Lead approach?'



The aim of a 'Language Lead' approach is to improve universal early language provision within every early years setting in Oxfordshire by establishing a named practitioner with a responsibility for communication and language.

Language Leads will receive training and support to enable them to develop their reflective practice and identify areas of strength and development in relation to early language. Language Leads are leaders and can affect change in their setting with the intention that all children reach their full potential.

The initial training programme will consist of six termly sessions on Microsoft Teams which will each have a specific focus. Language Leads will be guided by self-reflective questions and supported to develop action points bespoke to their own setting and staff. Sessions will be offered by the Early Years Advisory Team and content will be supported by other agencies supporting the project including Speech and Language Therapy and the EY SEND team.

Examples of changes led by Language Leads may include:

- improving the identification of children with SLCN
- embedding the 'WellComm Big Book of Ideas' into everyday practice
- ensuring visual signs and symbols are being used consistently
- developing quality interactions across a staff team

Language Leads will be provided with research-based tools and new resources to help them support colleagues. They will be encouraged to recognise changes that will benefit the whole setting. Following the initial programme of six sessions in there will be an opportunity to take part in online networking.

**If you are interested in this role,  
talk to your Manager to find out how to take part**