



Early Years Speech and Language Therapy

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

For Early Years Professionals in Bristol, and North Somerset

September 2025-July 2026

For more information, visit:

<https://www.bristolearlyyears.org.uk/events-calendar/>

<https://www.bristolearlyyears.org.uk/speech-and-language>

Sirona Resources and Online Toolkit:

<https://sirona-cic.org.uk/children-services/services/early-years-speech-language-therapy-resources/>

Or contact us:

sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net

Look out for... our new 'Learning Language Through Books-Sharing in the Early Years' course available for Bristol settings.

We've also partnered with the **BBC's Tiny Happy People** and the **Bristol Early Language Project** to create our 'Stories at Home' activity cards and vocabulary bookmarks [Stories At Home – Children and Young People's Services](#)

Additional links to external training, research and resources: Bristol & Beyond Stronger Practice Hub; Speech and Language UK (ICAN); Education Endowment Foundation

Talk to Me! - Ideas and resources to share, developed in partnership with Bristol families: <https://sirona-cic.org.uk/children-services/services/early-years-speech-language-therapy-resources/>

Bitesize information videos and tips: <https://bit.ly/EarlyYearsSpeechandLanguageTherapy>

Our Tiered CPD offer is available in a range of accessible formats...

Specialist, in-depth, evidenced-based programmes:

- **'Adapted More Than Words'**

In-depth, universal/ targeted, evidence-based programmes

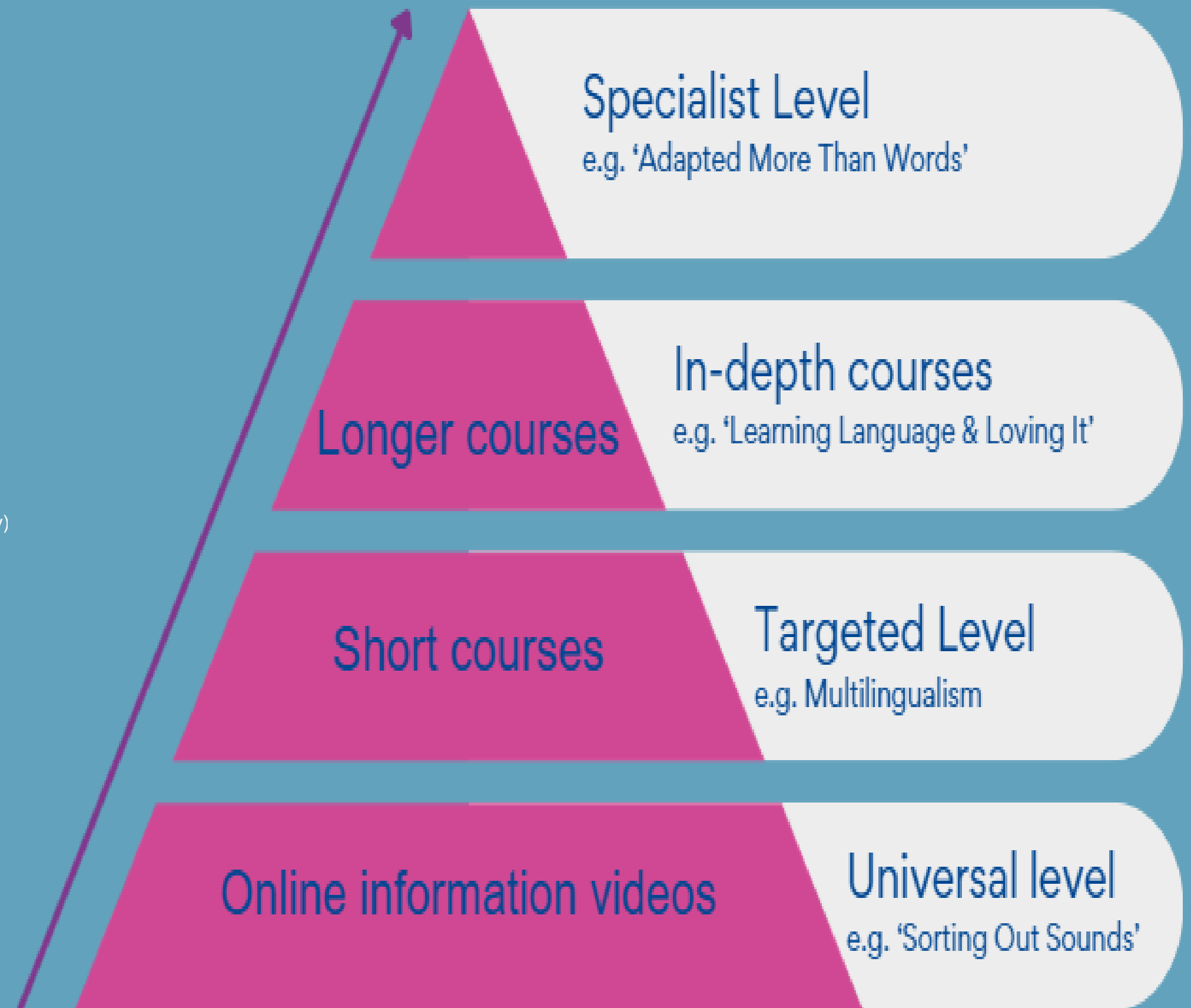
- **'Learning Language and Loving It'**
- **'Word Aware'**
- **'Early Talk Boost'**
- INSETs on request
- Full day and 1.5-day courses (over 3 sessions)
 - Online and in-person options available (in-person available for Bristol only)

Short universal/ targeted courses include:

- Half-day courses
- Short online sessions
- Pre-recorded sessions

Universal level courses

- Short information videos
- Online Toolkit -for information and resources



Adapted 'More Than Words'® Programme



In-person- plus one online orientation session. Bristol settings only. **'In-depth, Specialist' Level.**

A Hanen certified, evidenced-based course, adapted for practitioners working with children on the autistic spectrum.

Come and learn about:

How to identify different social communication stages and use strategies to support language, social communication and interaction.

Offered to those **currently working with a child who may be on the autistic spectrum.** Participants must be able to **attend all sessions.**

Course details: 1 x **Online Orientation** session and 5x **In-person** teaching sessions, plus 2 **Video** feedback sessions in your setting

Upcoming Courses:

Course dates and booking is via Eventbrite:

<https://AdaptedMoreThanWordsBristol.eventbrite.co.uk>

Autumn course starts 08/10/2025

Spring Course starts 03/02/2026.

As dates for this course have passed, please contact us directly if you are interested.

sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net

There is a More Than Words® guidebook to accompany this course, which is a recommended resource: available via [Amazon](https://www.winslowresources.com/) or <https://www.winslowresources.com/>

'Learning Language and Loving It'™ Programme



In-person. Bristol settings only. **'In-depth' Universal/ Targeted level.**

A **Hanen certified**, evidenced-based course which will enable you to “create the kinds of enriched language-learning environments that help children learn best.” “You’ll discover how to help ...promote the social, language, and literacy development of young children (birth to five) using responsive interaction strategies that help all children learn, whether they’re typically developing, have or are at risk for language delays, or are second-language learners.”

The course includes **5 x in-person workshops (an extra optional session), plus 4 video visits to your setting.**

***Participants must attend all sessions to complete the course**

Upcoming Courses:

Autumn course dates and booking is via Eventbrite:

<https://LearningLanguageandLovingIt.eventbrite.co.uk>

Spring course starts 25/02/2026

Please note: Participants need to attend all sessions and have access to the 'Learning Language and Loving It' guidebook (**cost is approx. £50**) <https://www.amazon.co.uk/> <https://www.winslowresources.com/>)

Early Talk Boost®

Bristol settings only. **'In-depth' Targeted Level,**

1 day training e.g. 9-4pm)

Early Talk Boost is a targeted, evidence-based, small group intervention aimed at 3–4-year-old children with delayed language: boosting their language skills by an average of 6 months in 9 weeks, to help narrow the gap with their peers.

Please note: Participants need to have access to the intervention resources (packs cost approx. £575 - purchase from Speech and Language UK [Early Talk Boost - Speech and Language UK: Changing young lives](#)).

If your setting has the resources already, then the training is free for any further participants. Contact us for more details on which resource pack to buy via: sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net

Upcoming Online Course

Course dates and booking is via Eventbrite:

<https://EarlyTalkBoostTraining.eventbrite.co.uk>

As dates for this course have passed, if you are interested in this course or for more information, please contact:

sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net

Speech and Language UK 
Changing young lives.

Word Aware:

‘Teaching Vocabulary in the Early Years’
 (including **Concept Cat** [Concept Cat — Lift Lessons](#))
 (In-person, Bristol settings only, **‘in-depth, Universal/ Targeted Level,’** 1 day e.g. 9-4pm)

[Concept Cat \(2023/24 trial\)](#) | [EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

We know that many children entering early years settings do not have the vocabulary to access learning. This whole-setting, **‘Word Aware** approach,’ supports children to learn vocabulary in everyday activities and environments within their setting.

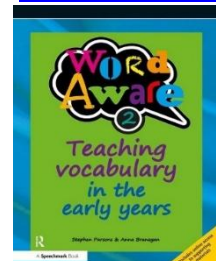
Come and learn about:

How to identify and introduce suitable vocabulary. Discover practical and inspiring ideas, which can be easily applied to busy early years settings.

This course is suitable for practitioners working with children ages 3-5yrs and is best delivered as a whole-setting approach (usually as a one-day training or a series of twilight sessions).

Upcoming Courses:

Course dates and booking is via Eventbrite:
<https://WordAware.eventbrite.co.uk>



If you are interested in hosting us to deliver this course as an INSET day or via a series of twilight sessions at your setting, **please contact us via:**
sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net

Teacher Talk®

(Online or in-person; **‘in-depth’ Universal/ Targeted level,’** 3 x 2.5-hour online sessions - or 1 whole day session per course)

Teacher Talk is a Hanen series of courses that encourage language development in early childhood settings, and links oral language & literacy. It focuses on using play and daily routines to create enriched, interactive, inclusive, language-learning environments.
Please attend ‘Part A’ before ‘Part B or C.’

Part A: Encouraging Language Development in Early Childhood Settings -Learn how to: Identify children’s conversational styles and the role that teachers play; let the child lead in individual and group interactions; help children become better conversational partners.

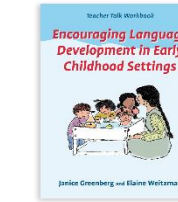
Part B: Let Language Lead the Way to Literacy
Learn how to: support literacy development by helping children develop a positive attitude toward the use of print; choosing books that match children’s interests and stages of development; using book reading as a time for interaction and conversation; making print a natural and meaningful part of every day

Part C: Fostering Peer Interaction in Early Childhood Settings - Learn how to: provide a physical and social environment that encourages peer interaction and creates many opportunities or successful interactions with other children; making the most effective use of space in the classroom; encouraging a variety of groupings for interaction; providing appropriate materials and activities; creating reasons for interaction and providing specific coaching.

Upcoming Courses:

Part A: Encouraging Language Development in Early Childhood Settings

Upcoming course date and booking is via Eventbrite:
<https://TeacherTalkA-1DayCourse.eventbrite.co.uk>

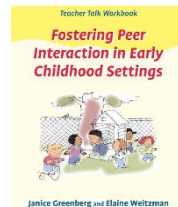


This course is also offered on request via INSET training. Please contact us via:
sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net

Part B: Let Language Lead the Way to Literacy
This course is currently offered on request via INSET training. Please contact us for information via
sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net
 You can also look out for our **‘Learning Language Through Book-Sharing in the Early Years’** course.

Part C: Fostering Peer Interaction in Early Childhood Settings
Upcoming Courses:

Please note that the previously advertised dates for this course have now been cancelled.



This course is offered on request via INSET training. Please contact us via:
sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net

Please note: There is a small cost for the accompanying workbooks for the Teacher Talk Series (currently £14.95).

Identifying and Supporting Children with Speech, Language & Communication Needs

(Online, 'Universal/ Targeted Level,' short course, 3 hours)

Come and learn:

How to identify children with speech, language and communication needs;
Supportive strategies for parents, carers and practitioners; When and how to signpost parents to the Children's Speech & Language Therapy Service; When and how to make a referral;
Includes a 'Question and Answer' session with a speech and language therapist.

Online Course (via Microsoft Teams)

Course runs 9.30-12.30pm

Book via Eventbrite:

<https://IdentifyingAndSupportingSLCN.eventbrite.co.uk>

Speech Sounds for Practitioners

(Online, 'Universal/Targeted Level,' short course, 3 hours)

Come and learn about:

The difference between speech & language skills.

Developmental milestones and typical patterns that affect young children's speech sounds.

Strategies to support clear speech production.

When and how to make an appropriate referral to Early Years Speech and Language Therapy.

How to contact us for further advice and support.

Question and answer session with a speech and language therapist at the end of the session.

Upcoming Online Courses (via Microsoft Teams)

Course runs 9.30-12.30pm

Course dates and booking is via Eventbrite:

<https://SpeechSoundsForPractitioners.eventbrite.co.uk>

Baby Talk for Practitioners

For practitioners working with children 0-18 months

(Online, 'Universal/ Targeted Level,' short course, 2 hours)

Come and learn about:

What skills are involved in communication?

What do babies need to learn?

How do babies' communication develop?

What to expect & when

Supporting parents and carers to identify the ways a baby communicates

What we can do to help a baby develop, feel safe and help their brain grow

How to contact us for further advice or support

Online Courses (via Microsoft Teams)

Course runs 9.30-11.30pm

Course dates and booking is via Eventbrite:

<https://BabyTalkPractitioners.eventbrite.co.uk>

Managing Conversations- moving from difficult to open conversations

(Online, 'Universal/Targeted Level,' short course, 2.5 hours)

Having conversations with families around sensitive topics can feel daunting and stressful. The way we share our concerns can impact on the way that information is received by a family, and in turn can affect a family's relationship with you, other professionals and their journey with SEND.

Come and learn about:

Ways to prepare for difficult conversations so that you can turn them into positive open conversations; considerations around different cultural attitudes; the boundaries of your role; strategies around sharing sensitive information and managing the conversation so that it feels safe and supportive.

Upcoming Online Courses (via Microsoft Teams)

Course runs 9.30-12pm

Course dates and booking is via Eventbrite:

<https://ManagingDifficultConversations.eventbrite.co.uk>

Bilingualism/ Multilingualism

Supporting language development with bilingual children

(Online, 'Universal/ Targeted Level,' short course, 1.5 hours)

Come and learn about:

The ways you can observe language developing in bilingual/multilingual children

Ideas to help you find out more and support a child's home language

Why we should celebrate multilingualism and home languages (and culture) and exploring supporting research

Strategies that support the language development of young children

Useful advice and resources to share with families and colleagues.

Upcoming Online Courses (via Microsoft Teams)

Course runs 9.30-11am

Course dates and booking is via Eventbrite:

<https://BilingualismSupport.eventbrite.co.uk>

Learning Language Through Book-Sharing in the Early Years

Bristol only, (Universal/ Targeted Level short course; self-directed information session via a pre-recorded presentation - approx 1 hour; plus an in-person, video-reflection visit to your setting - approx. 45min)

An opportunity to develop your knowledge and practice around book-sharing: how this can support language learning and vocabulary development. This training includes:

- Access to a pre-recorded, narrated Powerpoint (approx. 1 hour to complete).
- A follow-up, video-reflection visit to your setting (approx. 45min).

The video coaching session provides an opportunity for practitioners to develop their own practice.

Come and learn about:

What young children learn from book-sharing

Building positive attitudes towards book-sharing in your setting

How children learn to love books

Exploring language beyond the 'here & now'

Supporting vocabulary development: which words to choose and how can we help children learn new words.

To find out more/ book on this course please contact us via: sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net

INSET Training (Bristol settings)

Please get in touch if you would like to host us to deliver one or more of our courses as part of your setting's INSET day. We can offer half day sessions and full day training courses.

Examples of a **full day training session** may include:

- Teacher Talk A (complete course- 'in-depth')
- Teacher Talk B (complete course- 'in-depth')
- Teacher Talk C (complete course - 'in-depth')
- Word Aware (complete course - 'in-depth')

Half or full day sessions may also include 1 or more of our other short courses. E.g.:



- Identifying and Supporting SLCN **and /or**
- Speech Sounds for Practitioners

Please contact us via:

sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net

If you are unable to host a session but are interested in our **Teacher Talk** or **Word Aware** workshops, please get in touch.

WellComm Early Years Toolkit

Bristol Early Language Project / Family Hub  
Home Learning Environment Project

(Universal / Targeted Level -Bristol settings and childminders only)

The Bristol Early Language Programme and Bristol Family Hubs have funded the **WellComm Early Years Speech and Language Toolkit**

This is an **evidenced** resource, which will enable you to screen the language and communication development of all your children. It also gives you intervention and curriculum planning activities through the associated 'Big Book of Ideas.'

More information is via:

[Bristol Early Language \(BEL\) - Bristol Early Years](#)

[Bristol Early Years – Calendar](#)

Online, 'Universal-Level' Resources

Please **see page below** for information and links to our own online resources (e.g. information videos, '**Talk to Me!**' campaign resources, and our Early Years Speech and Language Therapy '**Online Toolkit**'). You can also find access to online courses and information from other providers.

General information about our workshops

Our online training is via Microsoft Teams and is **free** for practitioners working in Early Years in Bristol, and North Somerset.

Due to funding differences, our in-person courses are for Bristol only (e.g. Learning Language & Loving It; Adapted More Than Words; Learning Language Through Book Sharing in the Early Years; courses delivered via INSETs). Please check whether there is a cost for additional resources accompanying each course.

If you are interested in attending or hosting an INSET, or for more information about any of our courses, please contact us via:

sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net

Online Information Videos

Short information videos recorded on our YouTube playlist to share with colleagues and families

<https://bit.ly/EarlyYearsSpeechandLanguageTherapy>

Confident Communicators

Learn about how we can support language development and help children get started with their talking

Confident Communicators - YouTube

Sorting Out Sounds

Learn about speech sound development and strategies to support clearer speech

[Sorting Out Sounds part 1 - YouTube](#)

[Sorting Out Sounds part 2 - YouTube](#)

Stammering

Learn about stammering plus what you can do to support a pre-school child who is stammering: [Stammering - YouTube](#)

Accessible recorded training webinar for professionals in early years, as well as primary <https://bit.ly/stammering-EY-primary-staff>

Continuing Professional Development (online) from other providers:

- [CPD - Bristol Early Years](#)
- [Bristol Early Years – Calendar](#)
- [Bristol & Beyond Stronger Practice Hub - Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub \(beyth.co.uk\)](#)
- [Training courses - Speech and Language UK: Changing young lives](#)
- [Evidence and resources | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](#)
- [Early years continuing professional development and support - GOV.UK](#)

Check out our Sirona webpages

[Early Years Speech & Language Therapy resources – Children and Young People’s Services \(sirona-cic.org.uk\)](#)

- **Online Toolkit** for a range of targeted resources and information, including advice sheets and referral forms.
- **Talk to me!** Downloadable, universal key message resources to share with families:
 - ‘Chat with me!’
 - ‘Play with me!’
 - ‘Share books with me!’
 - ‘Sing to me!’
- Includes our new ‘Stories At Home’ activity cards and vocabulary bookmarks
- Information videos and bitesize clips to share with colleagues and families:

<https://bit.ly/EarlyYearsSpeechandLanguageTherapy>

Useful information

Our online training is free for early years practitioners/ professionals working in Bristol, & North Somerset.

In-person courses are not currently available to North Somerset due to funding differences.

Please check whether the course is delivered online or in-person and whether there is a cost for additional resources accompanying each course.

Booking is via Eventbrite.

If you are unable to attend a course, please let us know in advance so that we can offer your space to someone else.

For more information visit:

<https://www.bristolearlyyears.org.uk/speech-and-language/>

Or contact us:

sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net