From Ideas to Action: Update & Moving Forward

- School Readiness – Stoke Speaks Out
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Who we are

• A multi agency team working across the City of Stoke-on-Trent
• We work directly with childminders, children’s centres, schools, nurseries and parents to embed a range of early speech/language and communication strategies
• We promote public health messages around speech, language, communication and attachment
How we found out about health literacy

• In Stoke-on-Trent over 60% of adults have a reading age of 11 years or under.
• We attended the training to further our understanding about Health Literacy and how this could support our work.
What we have done

• Vocabulary at age 5 is a strong predictor of future language levels, attainment and literacy

• Therefore we wanted to provide opportunities for children in Early Years to experience and use a wide range of vocabulary relating to health literacy

• We have created four Health Literacy resource boxes:
  • Going to the Dentist
  • Going to the Hospital
  • Going to the Doctors
  • Healthy Eating
What we have done

• Each box contains:
  • A vocabulary screen
  • Activity sheets
  • Topic related toys/games
  • Books (fiction/non-fiction)
  • Evaluation sheets
What we have done: aims

• Screen children’s knowledge of health related vocabulary
• Provide quality ‘pick up and go’ resources
• Allow theming of whole classroom around topic
• Immerse children in health related vocabulary in a play based and multi-sensory way
• Provides children with a core foundation of vocabulary on which to build later learning
What the impact has been

“Practitioners and children loved playing with the resources”

“I can see it being very useful for Nursery/Reception children as well as our younger ones with more regular use”
What the impact has been

“The children did a lot of bandaging up of the staff, taking blood pressure, temperatures and checking heart beats”
What the impact has been

“We used the vocabulary screen and discovered that children didn’t know some of the most basic vocabulary”
What’s next?

Our plans are to...

• Continue the promotion of the boxes
• Monitor the usage of each topic and create more for the most popular topics
• Create further resource boxes in collaboration with the midwifery team