

# Early Words Together for Childminders

National Literacy Trust

## What is the aim?

This programme aims to improve the practice of childminders who are potentially reaching children previously underserved, whilst also contributing to the evidence base of engaging and supporting parents remotely.

The programme has been designed by drawing on high-quality evidence and the expertise of the team at the National Literacy Trust.

An evidence-informed approach that supports the communication, language, and early literacy of young children age 2-4 through evidence-based activities which lead to improvements in their home learning environments.

We are looking for 12 childminders to use Early Words Together for Childminders and provide feedback for future development. We hope the programme will provide:

### Amongst practitioners (childminders) -

- increased knowledge and understanding of how to support children's communication, language, and literacy (CLL)
- skills to use strategies to support language through each of the 6 focus activities.
- confidence to support language development through each of the 6 focus activities and build them into daily routines.

### Amongst children -

- ability to listen to, join in with, and enjoy stories more.
- ability to listen to, join in with, and enjoy songs and rhymes.
- increased receptive and expressive vocabulary.
- enjoy sharing books with adults more and choosing their own favourite books to share.

Settings that deliver the programme and complete the required feedback will receive a thank you payment of £2,000 for their involvement.

## What will the programme involve?

- Childminders delivering weekly hour-long sessions with their children aged 2-4, focusing on the following EPPE-evidenced activity through which to support early language:
  - Imaginative play
  - Singing songs and rhymes
  - Sharing books and stories
  - Mark-making
  - Getting out and about
  - Visiting the library
- Childminders finding opportunities during the week to repeat the focus activity and practise strategies for supporting language through the activity.
- Following the weekly sessions, childminders coaching parents to help them support their child's language development through these activities at home.
- Feeding back on the programme and resources provided at online network meetings during the project timeline.
  - A full privacy notice and other relevant data protection information will be made available for you to review prior to signing a memorandum of understanding.

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### How will you be supported to deliver the programme?

- Two 2.5-hour training sessions for childminders on strategies to support talk through 6 key activities and how to share learning with parents (preferably face to face but a time to suit you).
- Monthly online network meetings bringing childminders together supporting implementation challenges and providing peer support.
- Coaching and mentoring for individual childminders at appropriate times, focussing on a specific strategy to support practice.
- Resources including a delivery guide with session plans, resources to share with parents, and high quality, diverse age-appropriate books.
- Free annual National Literacy Trust membership for additional early years resources, e.g., booklists, online author events, etc.

### Key dates

- **Online meeting with childminders to introduce programme and plan mutually convenient training dates**—August 2023
- **Initial training sessions delivered**—September 2023
- **Delivery starts in childminder settings**—October 2023
- **First online network meeting, feedback collection point**—November 2023
- **Delivery ends, second online network meeting, feedback collection point**—December 2023

### Next steps

If you have any questions about the programme, please contact

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