

Communication Friendly Home-Based Settings for Early years - video transcript

A very warm welcome to this short clip about the EEF project to pilot **Elklan's Communication Friendly Home-based Settings Programme** (or CFHBS) for childminders.

As part of the Department of Education's Early Years Recovery Programme, Pen Green, a Stronger Practice Hub and the EEF are working together to fund childminders' access to Elklan's Communication Friendly Settings Home-based Settings Programme. The University of York and the University of Sheffield will study the programme's influence on the knowledge, skills and confidence of childminders in children's speech, language and communication development and how to support children. This will be a pilot to explore the feasibility of the programme for a more widespread implementation of CFHBS with childminders.

Elklan's Communication Friendly Home-based Settings, (or CFHBS) has two parts and you can start in September 2023 or January 2024 (subject to availability of places):

Part 1: Exploring children's SLC development and how to support all children with their communication development but particularly those who have, or are at risk of having, SLCN. You need to have children aged 2-5 in your care for the period September 2023 to March 2024.

There is a choice for Part 1:

Let's Talk with U5s or **Speech and Language Support for 3-5s**



Let's Talk with Under 5s provides training in the essential messages so you will have a basic knowledge about children's SLC development and how to support all children.

To enrol on this course you need evidence of previous study at entry level 3 or GCSE grades 3 to 1/D-G (or above).

The learning will all be completed via live webinars (two hours each) with tutor presentations and learner discussions and sharing of ideas. This means you won't have to organise and undertake any self directed learning through online sessions'.

Each week, you will implement one or two strategies and write up the outcomes in an e-learning log describing (in one or two sentences) how the strategy was implemented.

Less time is required if you follow this route and at the end you will receive 3 credits at level 1.



Speech and Language Support for 3-5s provides in-depth training so you will have enhanced knowledge about children's SLC development and how to support all children with their communication development.

To enrol on this course you need evidence of previous study at an A-level, NVQ3 or National Diploma level.

You need to be confident in learning via weekly online e-learning sessions, each lasting an hour, and preparing work to discuss at weekly live webinars. This requires more motivation, organisation and self-directed study skills.

You will implement a range of strategies and write up the outcomes each week in an e-learning log giving detailed descriptions, evaluating the outcome of using chosen strategies and planning next steps.

More time is required to follow this route and at the end you will receive 9 credits at level 3.

Please note that there is a choice but this is subject to meeting the entry criteria and if either LTU5s or SLS3-5s is oversubscribed, you may be randomly allocated to one or other group.

You will attend live webinars in consistent small groups with the same tutor and same colleagues. You will be asked to select and prioritise your live webinar time slots. This means selecting the same time, on the same day, each week for 7 or 10 weeks (depending on the route you take). Once the programme starts you will only be able to swap live webinar groups if there are exceptional circumstances.



Part 2: To create a more communication friendly home-based setting (CFHBS).

This is the same regardless of whether you complete the knowledge-based LTU5 or SLS3-5s course.

The CFHBS part will run concurrently with Part 1. A copy of the timelines can be found on the webpage. There are two start times, September 2023 or January 2024. The programmes end at different times depending on the route you take.

Once you have signed up to the CFHBS programme, you will be given a checklist to reflect on how communication friendly your home is now and you will be asked to rate your setting against different factors that consider:

- The physical environment (inside and outside).
- Appropriate interaction with children.
- How to model and develop children's talking.
- The range of resources and opportunities for communication and learning.
- How to explore books to support language and communication development.

You will be provided with a manual which will give :

- Universal level advice and strategies to develop young children's SLC.
- Guidance about the evidence you will need to showcase the changes you have made to create Communication Friendly Home- Based Setting.

Several of the live webinars for Part 1 will be extended so that your tutor can help you to explore the different areas you need to consider to make your home more communication friendly.

You will need to:

- Access your CFHBS e-learning log via the Elklan website.
- Rate how well you consider you already meet various criteria on a scale of 1-5.
- Make some changes to improve any aspects for which ratings of 3 or less were given.
- Write a few descriptions but mostly upload photos to evidence how communication friendly your home is in your e-learning log.
- Enable an Elklan Tutor to observe your interaction with a child (this child can be your own as long as they are under the age of 5). All our Elklan Tutors are speech and language therapists or specialist teaching advisors.

All of this activity will take an average of 30-45 minutes a week for the seventeen week duration of the programme.

At the end of the programme, your Elklan Tutor will arrange a virtual meeting/walk through with you so that you can walk around your home and demonstrate the changes you have made. Your tutor will also observe your interaction and modelling skills with children and provide feedback and guidance. A few childminders will have a face-to face visit (instead of a virtual visit).

A note about Childminder Assistants. If you employ Childminder Assistants they are welcome to support you in making the changes and collating the evidence towards your CFHBS award but the assistant will not achieve an individual award for either Let's Talk with Under 5s, Speech and Language Support for 3-5s or CFHBS.

This is a wonderful opportunity to be able to complete an externally accredited course and to reflect on the communication environment that you are providing as part of your childminding business.



Taking part in a pilot research project

At the same time you will be taking part in a pilot research project to help to develop evidence about effective ways to support childminders. Just to remind you, the University of York and the University of Sheffield will study the programme's influence on the knowledge, skills and confidence of childminders in children's speech, language and communication development and how to support children. It will also explore the feasibility for a more widespread implementation of CFHBS for childminders.

Taking part in this pilot will involve a couple of extra activities:

1. Completing two online short surveys (at the beginning and end of the programme) about your experience of the training and its perceived impact in your home-based setting.
2. Engaging in email conversations with the researchers so they can gain a deeper understanding of the impact the programme has.

In addition, a small number of childminders will be:

- Invited to take part in an interview with a member of the research team.
- Asked if representatives from York University can join your virtual CFHBS visit with your Elklan Tutor.