

The Cost to the Nation of Children's Poor Communication: Scotland Edition

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The Cost to the Nation of Children's Poor Communication

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- Prevalence
- Link between communication difficulties and social disadvantage
- Impact – on individuals, families
- Cost to the Nation
- Successful interventions



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Prevalence of Communication Support Needs



- 10% of children have CSN
 - a rising number of children identified in Scotland? Law (2007)
- A link between communication difficulties and social disadvantage
 - *Millennium Cohort Study* (2007) IoE
 - *Children Starting School in Scotland* (Tymms et al 2005)

The Cost of Poor Communication: - to the Individual



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- **Speech, language and communication skills impact on**
 - Literacy development
 - Academic achievement
 - Social relationships and personal skills
 - Self esteem and confidence
 - Emotional regulation and behaviour
- **Longer term impact on**
 - Employability
 - Social inclusion
 - Life chances

*The Cost of Poor Communication:
- to the Individual*



James Law (2007)

*Communication Support Needs:
a review of the literature*

Scottish Executive Social Research

*The Cost of poor Communication:
- to the family*



The Cost of Poor Communication: - to the nation



- What employers want
- Actual costs
- NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training at 16 – 18)
 - Scotland – 14%
 - Highest in areas of social deprivation

*What we know
can make a difference*



With the right support.....

*What we know
can make a difference*



A Central Role for Communication

A Curriculum for Excellence... 'aims to provide children and young people with an environment in schools which is rich in language with all teachers responsible for promoting language.'

*What we know
can make a difference*



Skilled and Confident Carers

- *Getting it Right for Every Child*
- *Sure Start Scotland*
- *Parent focused programmes*

What we know can make a difference



Focused Early Intervention

- Focus on language in the early years
- Education Committee Enquiry (2006)
- Stevens C (2006) *Early Years Education: Perspectives form a review of International Literature*
- Better Health, Better Care discussion paper (2007)

*What we know
can make a difference*



Integrated approaches

- this conference!

What we know can make a difference



A skilled and confident workforce

- Education Committee response to the Early Years Inquiry (2006)
- National Review of Early Years and Childcare workforce report (2006)
- Communication Support Needs: a review of the Literature (Law 2007)
- online forums for sharing practice, resources and experience
- JPDF revision and extension

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