The importance of early communication in child development

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National Literacy Trust

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Why does Talk To Your Baby need to exist?

- Concerns about early communication skills
- Early communication is everybody's business
- Communication is an essential life skill, the basis on which all children learn, achieve and make friends
- Language is key to the development of children's thinking

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What does TTYB do?

- Encourage parents and carers to communicate more with children from birth to three
- Information and resources for practitioners
- Advocacy through media
- Specific projects, such as buggy research

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What we know about brains

- Exciting discoveries in neuroscience highlight the importance of good early experiences
- Good attachment and sensitive attunement vital in first three years
- Babies are born to be sociable but they cannot do this on their own
- See www.developingchild.net

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Face-to-Face research

- CYPF grant 2009/2011 for innovative research
- Aim to identify key messages around early communication for parents and carers
- Examine most effective ways of promoting messages, through action research
- Inform TTYB and wider sector

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Who is responsible?

- “We recommend that all parents receive information which emphasises the importance of speech, language and communication to all children through Child Health Promotion Programme”
- “We recommend that speech, language and communication is prioritised by all children’s centres”

The Bercow Report, DCSF/DH, 2008

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Regional pilot

- West Midlands pilot work to investigate early communication provision
- Many effective but short term initiatives
- Need for community-wide provision
- Need for sustainable strategic approach for long-term

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Guidance paper

"Guidance for developing a strategic approach to speech, language and communication in the early years"

Dr Cathy Hamer

Available from www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk

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Ideas and comments

Always keen to hear ideas and comments on any aspect of early communication

Contact Liz Attenborough

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