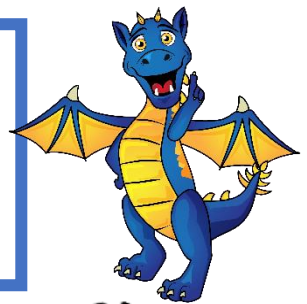


Coltale Early Years Communication Pathway



Hello ! I'm Coltale! This pathway is to help every child in the City of London to be the best communicator that they can be. It's for every parent/carer and practitioner and provides guidance to support Early Years children on their communication journey. Coltale stands for City of London Talks and Listens Enthusiastically and we want to give every child the best start in life so that they can reach their full potential. Follow me...!

Children's Centre practitioners, early years settings, and the Health Visiting Team have been trained to identify any concerns regarding children's communication skills. Parents/carers can ask questions and discuss any of their concerns with these professionals.



It is important that specific needs are identified as early as possible to make sure that children get the right support at the right time. It might involve direct work with a child, staff training or simply adapting the child's environment and available resources. At any stage, additional communication support may be sought from other services This cycle of assess, plan, do, review will continue for as long as it is needed.



Look at the next page for advice on where to start.



Coltale Early Years Communication Pathway for practitioners



Share information with all parents/carers about the importance of children's communication development. Share tips, ideas and strategies to promote language and communication. There is lots of information available and ideas for fun activities on Social Media - search SquareMileFamilies on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. You can also find information on sites such as 'Tiny Happy People' and 'Hungry Little Minds'.

Ensure your environment and interactions are communication-rich throughout the day, activities and routines. Have your staff team attended Coltale training? If you would like to know more, email EEYservice@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Be alert: Early identification of speech, language and communication needs is key. For every child in your setting, be alert to potential speech, language and communication difficulties. As well as specifically looking out for speech and language skills, consider how children are doing with **playing** (both on their own and with others), **interacting** (with other children and adults), **responding** to attempts at communication from adults and children, **understanding** and following routines and instructions, **listening** to adults and other children and **general behaviour** (this might be affected by difficulties with understanding or using language).

If you have any questions or early concerns about a child, contact the Education and Early Years team. They can provide free advice, guidance and practical support - EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk

If you have concerns, look at the child's speech, language and communication development in more detail. Check it out using the Coltale tracking sheet. If needed, refer for specialist support such as the Speech and Language Therapy Service (with parental consent). Continue to provide targeted interventions and review progress every 6-8 weeks in partnership with parents/carers, professionals involved and any other setting the child may attend.

For families registered with a City or Hackney GP you can use the MARS referral form available here:

<https://www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/kb5/hackney/localoffer/service.page?id=Kmq-L9BDI28>

For Children whose GP is in another Local Authority, you will need to contact the services in the child's home LA.