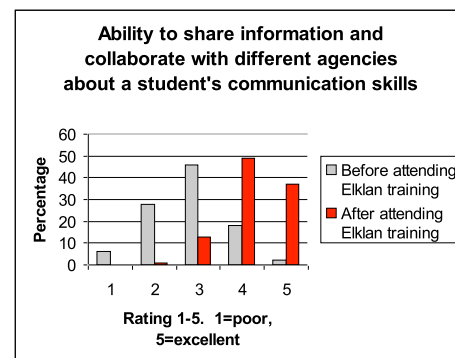
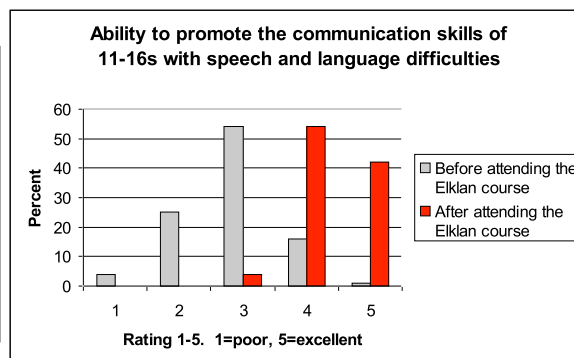
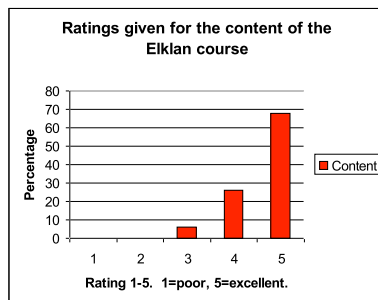


Evaluating the effectiveness of the Elklan course Autumn 2009 – Summer 2010: Speech and Language Support for 11-16s

During Autumn 2009 – Summer 2010 an Elklan 34 courses called ‘Speech and Language Support for 11-16s’ were delivered to a total of 160 teaching assistants in different parts of the UK. All Elklan courses are accredited through Open College Network and each participant gains accreditation by completing a portfolio. Part of the portfolio includes a task to evaluate the course using parameters from the Common Core Skills framework. Data from the 160 evaluation sheets has been used here.



The data suggests:

1. **94%** of participants rated the content of the Elklan course to be good or excellent.
2. There is a significant difference in the participants' ability to support students with their speech and language needs. Before the training 29% felt that their ability to support students was unsatisfactory, 54% felt their skills were good and only 16% felt their skills were very good. After the training **100%** felt their ability to support students with speech and language difficulties was good (54%) to excellent with 42% stating that their skills were excellent.
3. There is a significant difference in the participants' ability to collaborate with different services e.g. education and speech therapy. Before the training 34% felt their ability to collaborate was less than satisfactory and 46% felt their ability to collaborate was good and 18% felt it was very good. After the training **99%** felt their ability to collaborate was good (49%) to excellent with 37% stating that their skills were excellent.

General comments from participants attending the 11-16s courses include:

'An excellently presented information gateway to understanding those with speech and language difficulties' S.A.

'I thought the course was very good and extremely beneficial. It helped me learn many new techniques to further help the students.' R.R. Nov 09.

'The course was very helpful and has lots of useful information which helps with everyday situations in school.' C.E. Nov 09.

'I feel that I am now able to locate the reason(s) and pin point an individual student's area(s) of difficulty and use a vast range of strategies to make their learning experience as enjoyable and productive as possible.' S.K. Dec 09.

'This course has provided me with the skills, strategies and confidence to support students with varying degrees of speech and language difficulties.' M.R. March 10.

'Fantastic. I really feel I have learned practical strategies which can easily be embedded into my everyday practice' L.H. March 10.

'Excellent, extremely useful and relevant for my role in secondary schools.' K.B. July 10