



Synopsis of Elklan

What is Elklan

Elklan is the leading externally accredited training organisation offering programmes taught through local Speech & Language Therapists (SaLT's) working collaboratively with specialist education staff. The courses equip staff and parents to be more effective in supporting children with speech, language and communication need (SLCN). It was established in 1999 by two experienced, practising speech and language therapists, Liz Elks and Henrietta McLachlan. Over the past 10 years Elklan has trained in excess of 500 SaLT's and specialist teachers who work collaboratively to deliver the Elklan training programmes in their locality. They have trained between them over 10,000 learners who have achieved accreditation through Apt Awards and now Open College Network London.

What programmes do we offer for Under 5s?

- Speech and Language Support for Under 5s. This course has been used to train ELLP's and other staff in ECAT settings. A SaLT can deliver this training on their own, education staff must work with a SaLT colleague.
- Let's Talk with Under 5s. A SaLT or teacher can deliver this training on their own or in conjunction with Elklan trained colleagues to parents, carers and early years staff.

How are the courses unique

All Elklan courses are accredited through OCNSW. 'Speech and Language Support for Under 5s is accredited at levels 2 and 3 and Lets Talk with under 5s' is accredited at level 1, To achieve accreditation the learners complete a portfolio of evidence which demonstrates use of activities and strategies explored during the course. This encourages practical application leading to change in practice. For audit of the training programmes see appendix.

The books which accompany each of the courses offer information, advice and activities; this ensures that after the training is completed the participant has a resource to use in their setting which can be shared with others.

Why choose Elklan?

'The Bercow review of services for children and young people' stated that early identification and intervention are essential. One of the recommendations from this report was 'skilling the wider workforce to identify need'. Elklan 'Speech and language support for under 5s' trains practitioners to identify the needs of the child and gives them practical strategies to enable them to support the child more effectively.

ECAT language consultants have been tasked with the job of ensuring that parents of all children and especially those with speech, language and communication needs receive practical and relevant training and advice which enables them to enhance their child's communication development and work in collaboration with existing services more effectively the Elklan 'Lets Talk with Under 5s' course help language consultants achieve this goal.

The Bercow review also recommended collaboration between agencies to ensure the needs of the child are met. Elklan has always been firmly committed to this principle by training SLT's and specialist advisory LEA staff together enabling them to train collaboratively. This ensures that training is given **by** local staff **for** local staff including health visitors, social work staff, care staff and parents and that the practical, accredited training is embedded in local service delivery.

Twenty ECAT settings have used Elklan training as fundamental to their service delivery. For more information please see the appendix..

Further information is available for visiting our website www.elkan.co.uk or by contacting Liz (028 90422069, lizelks@elkan.co.uk) or Henrietta (01208 841450 henrietta@elkan.co.uk)



ECAT	Courses taught	Evidence of impact	ECAT Language Consultant
Bolton	<p>Speech and Language Support for under 5s</p> <p>(S & LS for under 5s)</p>	<p>A major focus of ECAT is about changing adult workers knowledge and skills (and confidence) and so there was an expectation on all settings that funding would be made available to provide supply cover to attend ‘Speech and language Support for Under 5s.’</p> <p>The training worked exceptionally well – giving knowledge, allowing learners to share experiences and skills, and helping them grow together as a group, which is a positive sign for the longevity of ECAT.</p> <p>Settings are now using the knowledge gained from attending an Elklan course to support further intervention. The aim is that this will address the issue of changing colleagues practise as well as supporting children’s language development.</p> <p>To enable existing ELLPs to support other settings in the principles of ECAT another ‘Speech and Language Support with Under 5s’ course is being delivered enabling a named practitioner from each of the new settings to be supported. Children’s centre teachers will also be included in this training to reinforce good practice.</p> <p>National strategies have classed Bolton as outstanding three times on the RAG system.</p> <p>The ECAT project has been so successful in Bolton it is hoped that the funding will continue for another year.</p>	Heather Scott
Leicester	<p>Speech and Language Support for under 5s</p>	<p>18 ELLP’s (Early Language Lead Practitioner) from the 19 original ECAT wave 1 settings attended Elklan ‘Speech and Language Support for Under 5s’. A further cohort of ELLP’s from 15 settings began the training in February 2010.</p> <p>Louise states: ‘I think providing the ELLPS with the Elklan training has been a real bonus - not only in developing their knowledge and practice but also as an opportunity for the practitioners to come together every week and share ideas etc around ECAT working.</p> <p>The feedback from some ELLPs who are also leaders in their pre-school setting has been that they think all leaders should attend Elklan – this is encouraging because as a leader they have more sway in introducing any ideas and strategies covered.</p>	Louise Butchart
Bradford	<p>S & LS for under 5s</p>	<p>Elklan courses used to deliver training component to ECAT.</p>	Carol Haigh

Hillingdon	S & LS for under 5s	The 10 week course forms a key layer to their training framework throughout the Borough including settings involved with ECAT.	
Bury		ECAT language consultant has just been trained to deliver Under 5s Elklan programmes	Kathy Burkmar
Prestwich		ECAT language consultant has just been trained to deliver Under 5s Elklan programmes	Claire Moseley
Lambeth	Speech and Language Support for Under 5s	In Lambeth Elklan training has been delivered to all the ELLPs- the first cohort were trained in Autumn 2009, and there is currently a course running to train the rest. All Children's Centre teachers will be trained in the Summer term 2010, in the hope that they can support some of the PVIs in the local area. A Let's Talk with Under 5s course is being run by an Elklan tutor and one of the accredited ELLPs in the summer term, as part of sustainability the ELLP will continue to offer this out to parents in the future. Charlotte reports that the ELLPs have been very inspired by the training and most of them have gone on to share the information with colleagues in their settings, along with some other settings as well. The SLTs who run the courses feel that one of the real strengths of the course is the portfolio work which helps relate the course content to the work that practitioners do every day. In Lambeth they are very pleased with the outcomes and intend to continue offering Elklan training after the ECAT funding finishes.	Charlotte Godden
Middlesbrough	Lets Talk with Under 5s	Course commencing March 2010	Sue Hargreaves
Slough	S & LS for under 5s	Course run Spring 2010	Rachel Cartwright and Zara le Tissier
Washington	S & LS for under 5s	Elklan courses used to deliver training component of ECAT.	Sue Kemp
Barnsley	S & LS for under 5s	ECAT training delivered through Speech and language Support for Under 5s.	Sarah Hill
Lincoln	S & LS for under 5s	All ELLP's in the 20 ECAT settings are going to be trained using 'Speech and Language Support for Under 5s course and take level 3 accreditation. The Lets Talk courses are being considered as an option for the parent training.	Jayne Carter
Wandsworth	S & LS for under 5s	Speech and Language Support for Under 5s is being delivered to 20 ELLPS involved in our ECAT.	Zara Godrich
North Yorkshire	S & LS for under 5s	Elklan training to be used to ensure sustainability of the project.	Carol-Anne Howe
South Shields	S & LS for under 5s	ECAT training delivered through Speech and language Support for Under 5s.	Claire Wood
Plymouth	S & LS for under 5s & Lets Talk with Under 5s	Plymouth has trained professionals and parents extensively on both Elklan courses. It will now be used to underpin the training for the ECAT project.	Kate Gillett

Salford	S & LS for under 5s	ECAT language consultant has just been trained to deliver Under 5s Ekklan programmes	Rafiah Ghanchi
East Lancs	S & LS for under 5s	ECAT language consultant has just been trained to deliver Under 5s Ekklan programmes	Mary Riley
Cambridge	S & LS for under 5s	Just starting to roll out the 10 week course	Leah Moors
Essex	Lets talk with Under 5s	Using Lets talk with Under 5s. Just about to train a SaLT to deliver the 10 week course.	Sian Ansell
Derbyshire	S &LS for Under 5s	ECAT language consultant has just been trained to deliver Under 5s Ekklan programmes	Jane Coey, Nicki Lees & Heather Sherwood
Tower Hamlets	S &LS for Under 5s	ECAT language consultant has just been trained to deliver Under 5s Ekklan programmes	Clair Chen
North Tyneside	S &LS for Under 5s	ECAT language consultant has just been trained to deliver Under 5s Ekklan programmes	Lesley Forrester
Blackburn	S &LS for Under 5s	ECAT language consultant has just been trained to deliver Under 5s Ekklan programmes	Robert Robinson
Bury	S &LS for Under 5s	ECAT language consultant has just been trained to deliver Under 5s Ekklan programmes	Claire Moseley
Liverpool	S &LS for Under 5s	ECAT language consultant has just been trained to deliver Under 5s Ekklan programmes	Marilyn Kronenburg

Evidence of impact.

1. Herefordshire Education Authority and SaLT Department. Evaluation of the impact of Elklan ‘Speech and Language Support for Under 5s’, 2004 – 2007. *Price, Heather SaLT and Jackson, Louise (specialist advisory teacher).*

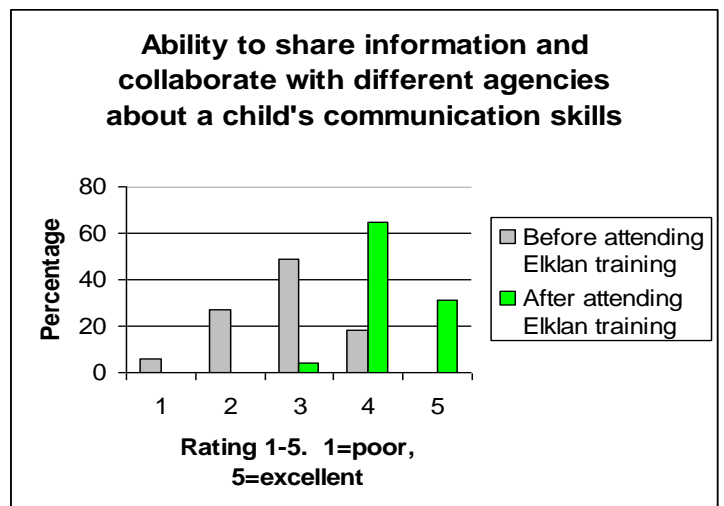
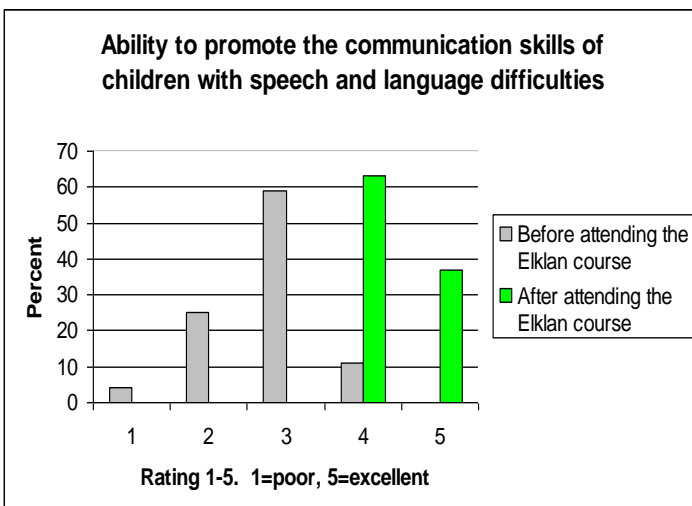
371 early years practitioners have been trained from 46 early years settings with a potential impact on over a 1000 children. Audit results indicate that:

- The training has had a significant impact on raising the quality of provision not only for young children with speech and language difficulties but for **all** children.
- Elklan accredited staff in children’s services can now identify and meet the needs of children with SLCN, more importantly they know when they need to ask for specialist help and when to refer on for SaLT.
- Staff observations are more accurate, they are better at sharing information with parents and other agencies. They are able to support the work of SLT’s to develop and carry out individualised programmes for children with specific difficulties
- The training has helped to create a shared ethos and collaborative working approach amongst practitioners, agencies and children’s services in Herefordshire.
- The SaLT service has noted that the standard of referrals, the quality of information given and the assessments made by staff has improved; there are fewer ‘inappropriate’ referrals.

2. Evaluation of Elklan Speech and Language Support for Under 5s.

A summary of evaluation sheets independently gathered by tutors from participants completing the Under 5s course in the UK. Compiled by McLachlan, Henrietta

In the autumn term 2009 this Elklan course was delivered in 24 venues throughout the UK. To date 91 evaluation forms have been returned by early years practitioners. All learners are asked to evaluate the course using parameters from the Common Core Skills framework. Data from these returns has been used here.



The data suggests:

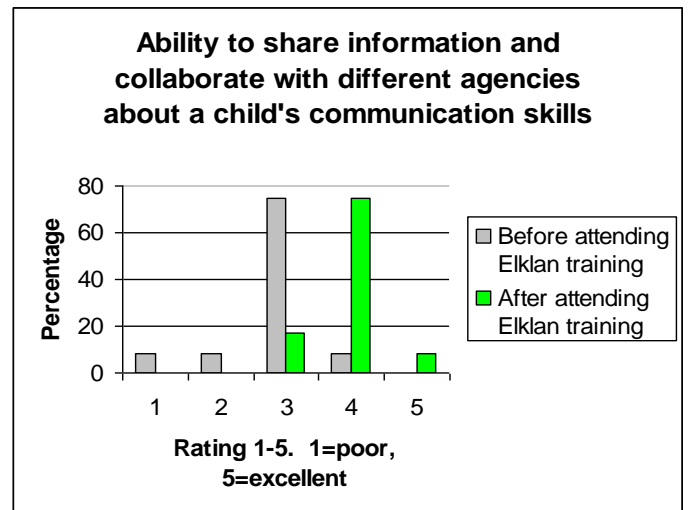
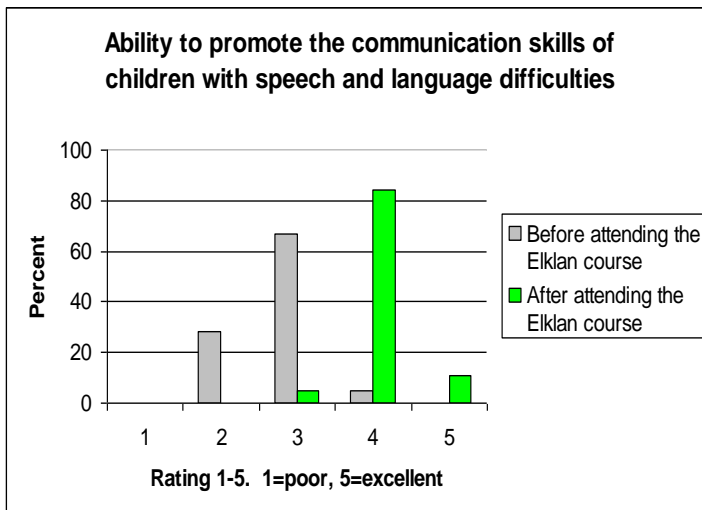
1. There is a significant difference in the participants’ ability to support children with their speech and language needs. Before the training 19% felt this was unsatisfactory, 52% felt their skills were good and only 28% felt their skills were excellent or very good. After the training 100% felt it was either excellent or very good.
2. There is a significant difference in the participants’ ability to collaborate with different services e.g. education and speech & language therapy. Before the training 33% felt this

was less than satisfactory and 67% felt it was either good or nearly excellent. After the training 100% felt their ability to collaborate was good to excellent.

3. Evaluating the effectiveness of an Elklan course in Leicester City ECAT: 'Speech and Language Support for Under 5s'

A summary of evaluation sheets independently gathered by the ECAT language consultant in Leicester from participants completing the 10 week Under 5s course. Compiled by McLachlan, H

During the summer term 2009 the Under 5s course was delivered in Leicester City to a total of 12 early years practitioners from a range of private, voluntary, independent settings and one academy (10 were ELLPs for their settings).



The data suggests:

1. There is a significant difference in the participants' ability to support children with their speech and language needs. Before the training 67% felt their ability to support children was O.K. and 8% felt their skills were good. After the training **100%** felt it was either good or excellent.
2. There is a significant difference in the participants' ability to collaborate with different services e.g. education and speech & language therapy. Before the training 16% felt this was less than satisfactory and 83% felt it was either good or excellent. After the training **100%** felt it was either good or excellent.

Comments received from learners taken from evaluation sheets completed the 'Under 5s' course.

'Excellent. I experienced a lot of 'wow' moments. I have found it to be one of the best courses I have attended. This course has and will continue to help me reflect on my practice' D.W Dec 09

'A very useful course. Something that I will really benefit from and so will my setting.' J.D. Nov 09.

'Very informative and enjoyable. Having gained a remarkable amount of knowledge which I am able to put into present and ongoing practice and pass onto my colleagues.' S.C. Nov 09

'An excellent course with a great balance of theory and practical activities to use in settings' L.W. Nov 09

'Absolutely excellent. I think it should be a pre-requisite for all teaching courses!' H.M Sept 09

Liz Elks
Speech and language therapy training consultant
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