

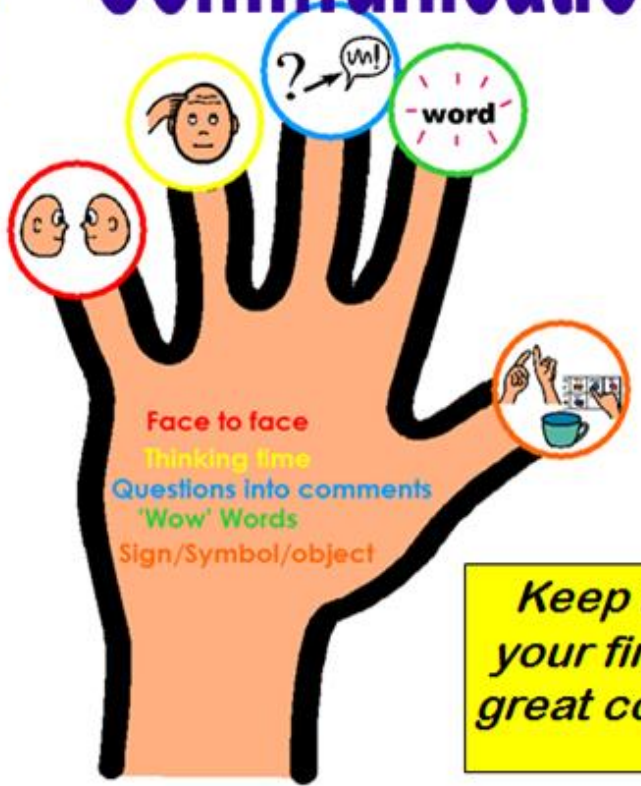
Giving Communication the High 5

Implementing strategies to support and develop
language in the early years



Fife SLT
#banter4bairns

Communication? *High 5!*



Face to face
Thinking time
Questions into comments
'Wow' Words
Sign/Symbol/object

Keep these 5 top tips at your fingertips to support great communication skills.

Fife Health and Social Care Partnership
A partnership between Fife Council and NHS Fife
www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org



Literature Review



Background reading on early language development – google scholar and purchased second hand books on eBay



Current Policy – Building the Ambition, Curriculum for Excellence, The Early Years Framework, GIRFEC

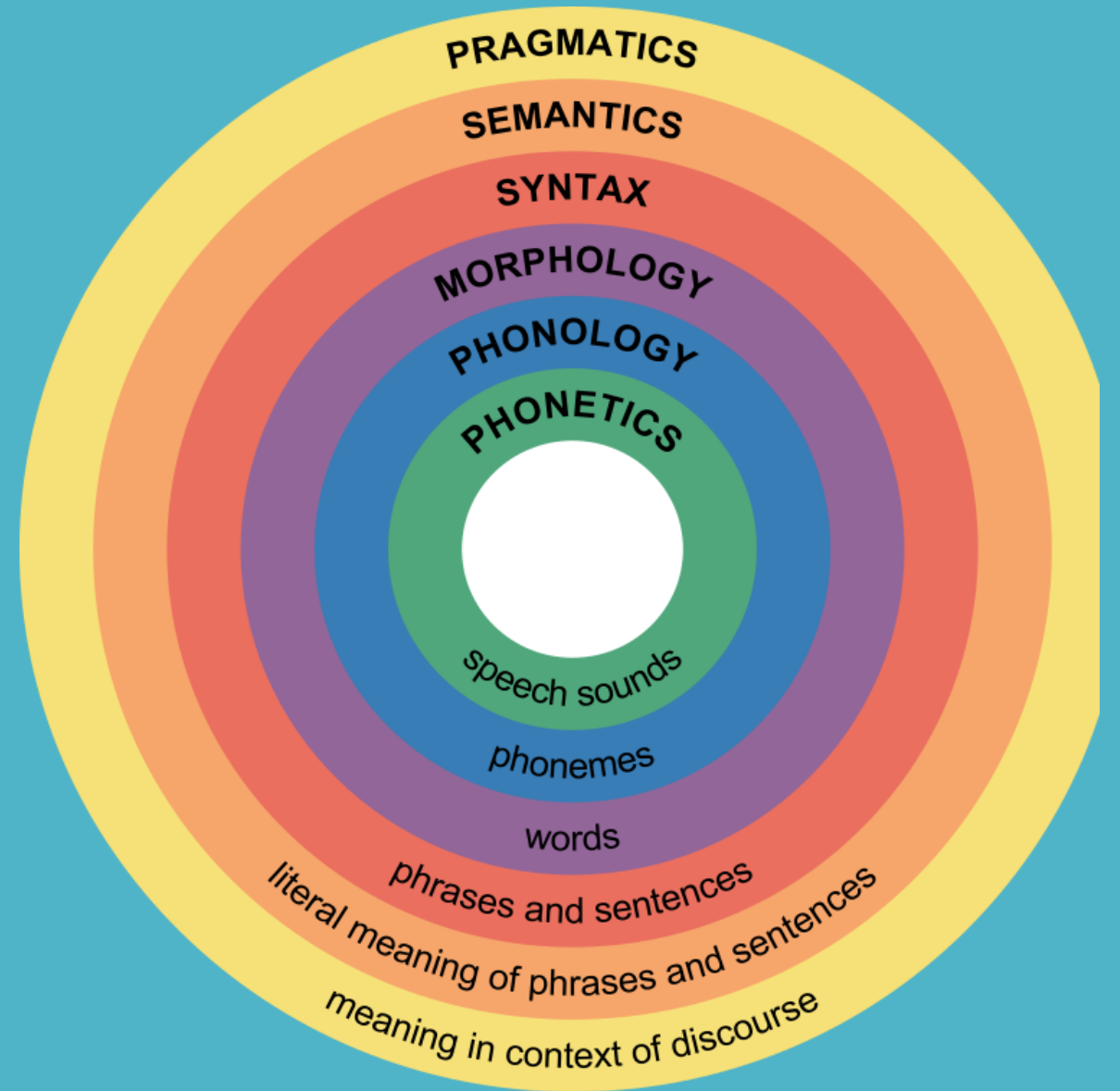


Education Source – EBSCO. Search term 'early language development' returned 261 hits. Excluding ASN, 59 articles remained.



Difficulty finding research linked specifically to Communication High 5 strategies

A
problem...



Gathering data



Audit of nursery communication environments



Staff survey



Parent/carer survey



Parent/carer focus group



Renfrew Word Finding Vocabulary Test



Speech, Language and Communication Progression Tool Age 4

Ethics and Confidentiality



No control group



Parents/carers informed of purpose and methods of research

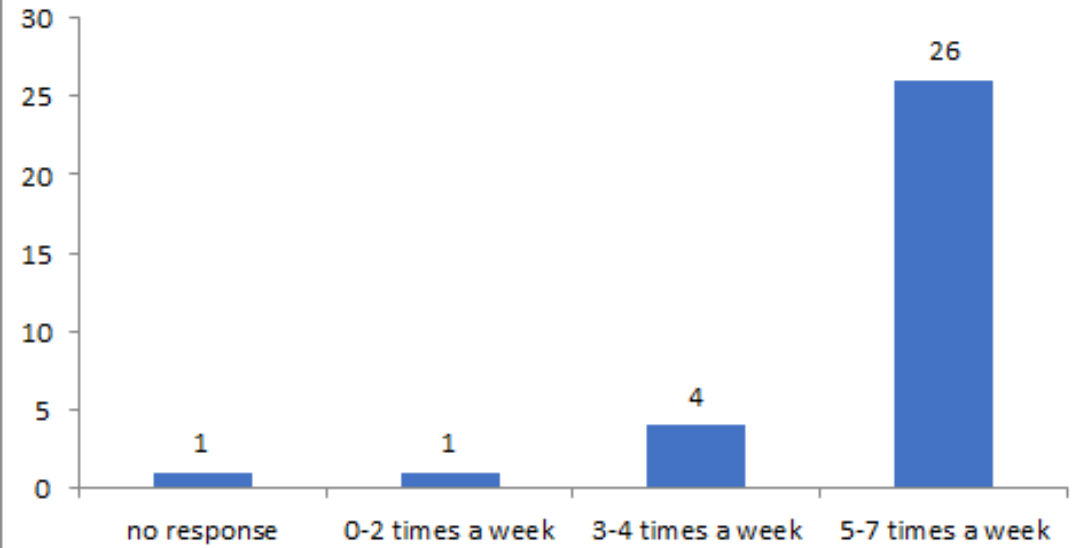


Confidentiality of children and settings maintained

Q10 Do you have concerns about your child's speech and language development?

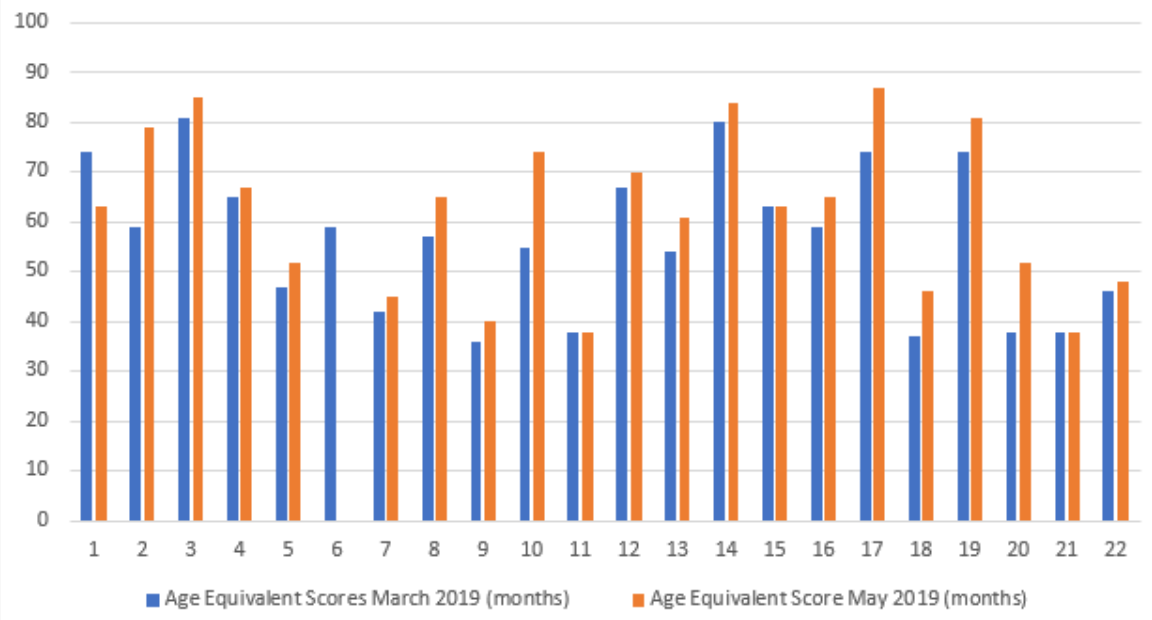


Q9 On average I read to my child

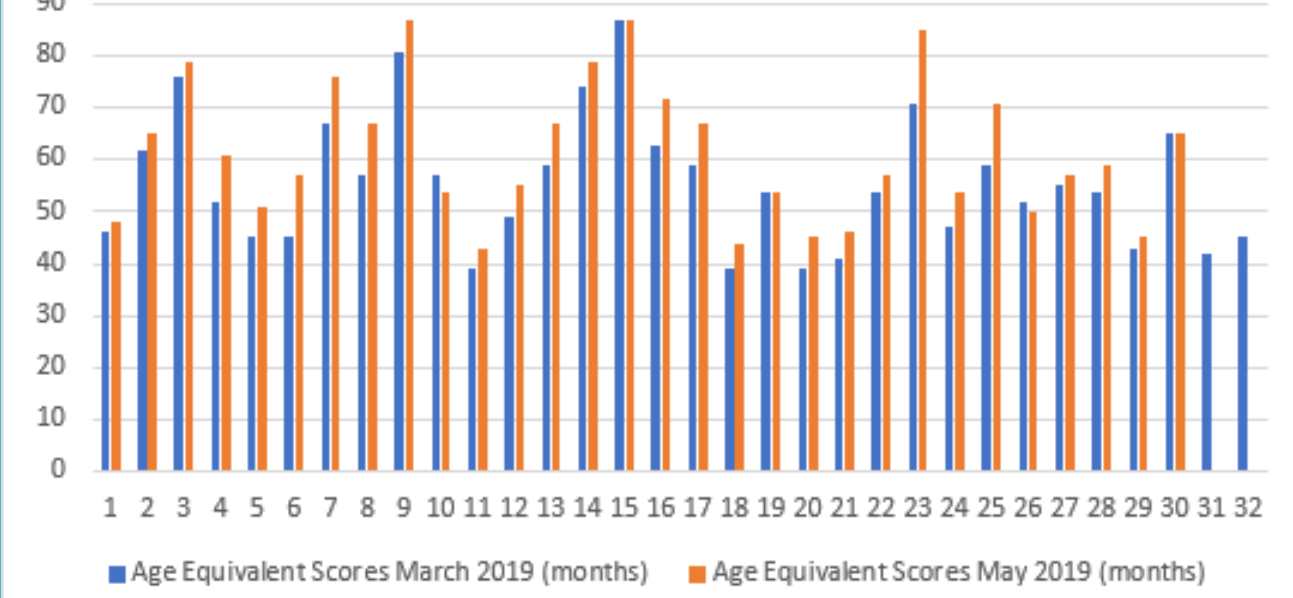


Results

Renfrew Vocabulary Test Age Equivalents Setting B



Renfrew Vocabulary Test Age Equivalents Setting A



Results

Limitations



No control group



Time scale

Conclusions



Most children making appropriate or above average progress in language development



Impossible to isolate to what extent different factors contribute to language development – home environment, nursery environment, quality interactions and learning experiences all important

But...
Communication
High 5 Strategies
have 3 key
benefits



1. Highlight the importance of early language development



2. Simple, clear and useful to share with parents



3. Relatively quick and inexpensive to train staff

Next Steps

In my own practice increase opportunities for children to

- Participate in storytelling
- Work as part of a small group
- Use visuals and signing

Next steps

Wider context of Scottish Education

- Add Language as a Wellbeing Indicator – Shanarril?
- Language and Communication as part of Initial Teacher Training
- Increased opportunities for ongoing CPD in Language and Communication
- Introduce a universal screening tool for Language development in the early years

GOOD
LUCK

