

Early Communication Pathway— a guide for professionals



One of the key principles within the whole of Family Help is that children and families receive the right help at the right time.

East Riding Best Start Family Hubs have developed the Early Communication pathway as a graduated response so that from the 'best first step' each child gets the right support to meet their individual language and communication needs.

***For families with young children
under 3 years of age***



EAST RIDING
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL



BEST
START
IN LIFE

UK Government

What is the Early Communication Pathway?

Requests into our Early Communication Pathway are triaged, and the most suitable support and best first steps will be shared.

It comprises 3 elements:

- Best Start offer (Baby or Early Communicators)
- Targeted (Early Communicators, Talk Time)
- Observations to support next steps / more specialist interventions

Early Communicators

Early Communicators is a fun-filled music session for young children that supports early communication and language by developing foundational pre-verbal skills.

The group welcomes a mixture of universal and targeted children to encourage role modelling among peers (both for the children and parent/carers).

Through a range of interactive activities including music, rhythm, movement and songs facilitators model and share ideas on how to encourage language and communication within the sessions - and importantly at home - which is where most of their child's learning takes place.



Talk Time

Talk Time was developed in collaboration with Portage and Speech and Language Therapy (SLT). It is a targeted 6-week programme of sessions to provide support for children at 2 years old with language and early communication difficulties. Activities are themed around being face to face, turn taking, making choices, listening, copying and speech sounds.

Play is a fundamental part of Talk Time and parents have lots of opportunities to play alongside their child during these sessions, learning techniques to support their child's communication and language skills and ways of maintaining these new skills in their own home learning environment.

Together with parents and carers we assess the child before and after Talk Time on the four main areas of language and communication development:

- ✓ **listening and attention,**
- ✓ **understanding,**
- ✓ **functional use of language**
- ✓ **social communication.**

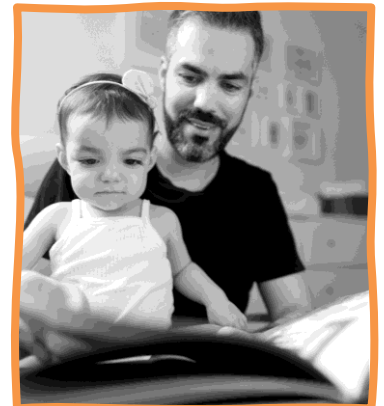


Our focus is on helping to narrow attainment and achievement gaps and these assessments help us to identify and support children's learning and development.

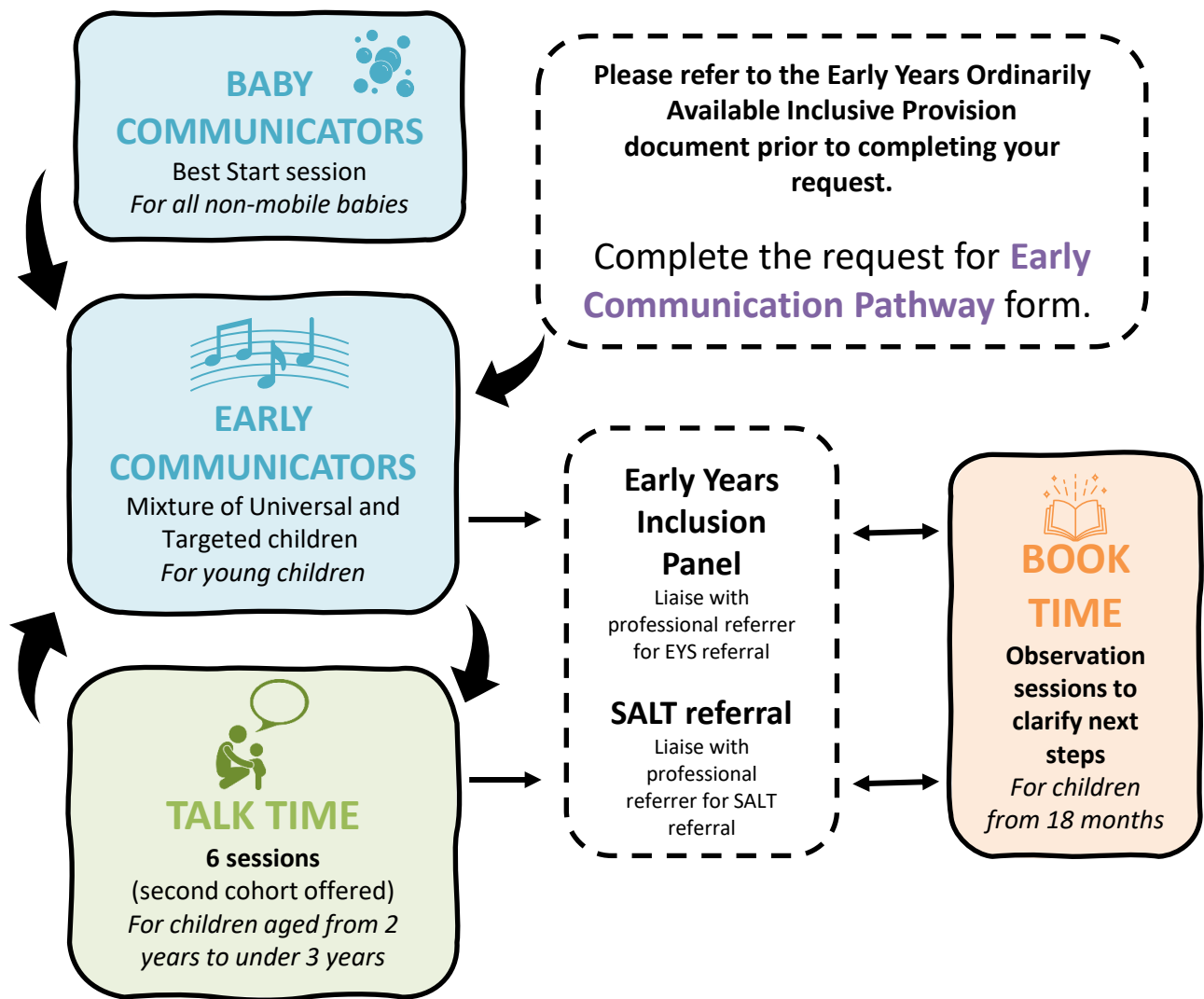
Book Time

Our Book Time programme can be delivered on a 1-1 basis over up to three sessions and is designed to support observations of early language and communication skills in young children.

Observations are linked to the Development Matters (non-statutory curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage) and used to support next best steps for the family – this could be signposting to universal sessions, accessing the Talk Time programme, or consideration of more specialist support with the original referrer.



How can I refer?



For more information please contact your locality Family Hub

Contact us:

www.EastFamilyHubs@eastriding.gov.uk
www.NorthFamilyHub@eastriding.gov.uk
www.WestFamilyHubs@eastriding.gov.uk

 @erfamilyhubs



Best Start
Family Hub

For Children, Young People
and Families