

Boys Talking Hot Spots **(Adapted from ECAT)**

This project is a follow up of the Language for Life Strategy and is focused on supporting speech, language and communication for boys.

What we know about boys:

We know that early on boys tend to concentrate on developing the right half of their brain which deals with objects and how they work, as opposed to the left-hand side which deals with faces and sounds.

Boys tend to;

- have more physical energy,
- be more interested in things,
- develop fine motor skills later,
- develop language later,
- be more willing to take physical risks
- be more competitive

What practitioners need to do.

- Understand boys' development
- Observe and identify their strengths and interests
- Value their experiences and differences non-judgementally.
- Plan opportunities that motivate and inspire boys.

Reference: Jan Dubiel, Early Excellence.

What are Talking Hot-Spots

Talking hot-spots aims to evaluate how the layout of your setting supports speech, language and communication. The following actions should be completed for boys for this project.

Step	Action
1	On a sheet of plain paper making a drawing of the layout of your room and the outside space.
2	Think about places within your environment where good talking takes place. This could be either initiated by children with you, or talking between children, or children talking to themselves or toys). Reference Speech and Language Therapy Information Pack
3	In a red pen, mark a cross where you think 'talking hot-spots' are. Add one cross if you think talking takes place sometimes, and add more crosses if it takes place there a lot, even if its not planned e.g. tidy up time.
4	In a blue pen, add circles in places where you think talking could take place, but it does not at the moment.
5	Once you have completed the plan of where you think talking takes place now carry out observations to see if you are right. Are there any surprises or common links?
6	Record on the plan, using the same red and blue cross method the outcome of your observations. Record the outcome in the box below 'What does this tell us'
7.	Now identify area/s to develop.
8.	Complete an action plan for the identified area/s. See Action plan for developing a communication friendly area.
8.	Evaluate the success of the action plan changes through observation.

What does this tell us?

Identified areas to develop