



Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative

CYPIC NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Who we are

CYPIC's purpose is to bring focus, connection and method where it is most needed to improve the wellbeing and life chances of children & young people in Scotland.

- Focus on improving outcomes for evidence-based priorities
- Connect people and share learning to accelerate improvement
- Support systematic use of the Quality Improvement journey to improve outcomes

More information

Email: cypic@gov.scot

Website: <https://cypic.co.uk/>

Twitter/X: [@scotgovCYPIC](https://twitter.com/scotgovCYPIC)

Welcome to the spring edition!



Read on to find out about:

- Our contribution to Keeping the Promise
- The Early Child Development Programme
- Our next ELC QI Learning Exchange event
- Work on early language & communication
- Progress with Level 1 writing improvement

Keeping the Promise

The CYPIC National Conference in November provided an opportunity for further collaboration and joint planning with The Promise Scotland. This has also provided a platform on which to build on a proposal for a structured and targeted piece of improvement work. This is being scoped across key areas of priority focus.

There is a great appetite for this across the system and we will be looking to make recommendations for consideration in the coming weeks. More details will follow soon.

Watch this space!



Early Child Development

We will keep championing the importance of the early years for future outcomes and are working to connect up policies across Scottish Government. You can download our programme change theory on the [CYPIC website](#) – we would love to hear what this means for your work, especially if you have great examples of using QI on any aspect of nurturing care!

The right for babies and children to develop to their full potential is part of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), which is now officially incorporated into [Scots law](#). Thinking about how we understand the infant voice is paramount to this:

“I won’t remember anything about what’s happening to me now, but it will affect me for the rest of my life... you can be part of helping make it the best start possible.”

The above quote was from the recent [Infant Mental Health: Babies in Scotland](#) conference where hundreds of colleagues showed their drive and passion to make it a priority to listen to the baby’s voice. This [resource](#) was also launched.

A new Infant Food Insecurity [Toolkit](#) launched in February. It is relevant to all services who work with pregnant women and new parents, as well as those who support them indirectly. Related to this, it’s worth knowing that the eligibility for [Best Start Foods](#) changed recently to make it available to around 20,000 more people by removing income limits and expanding eligibility for younger parents.

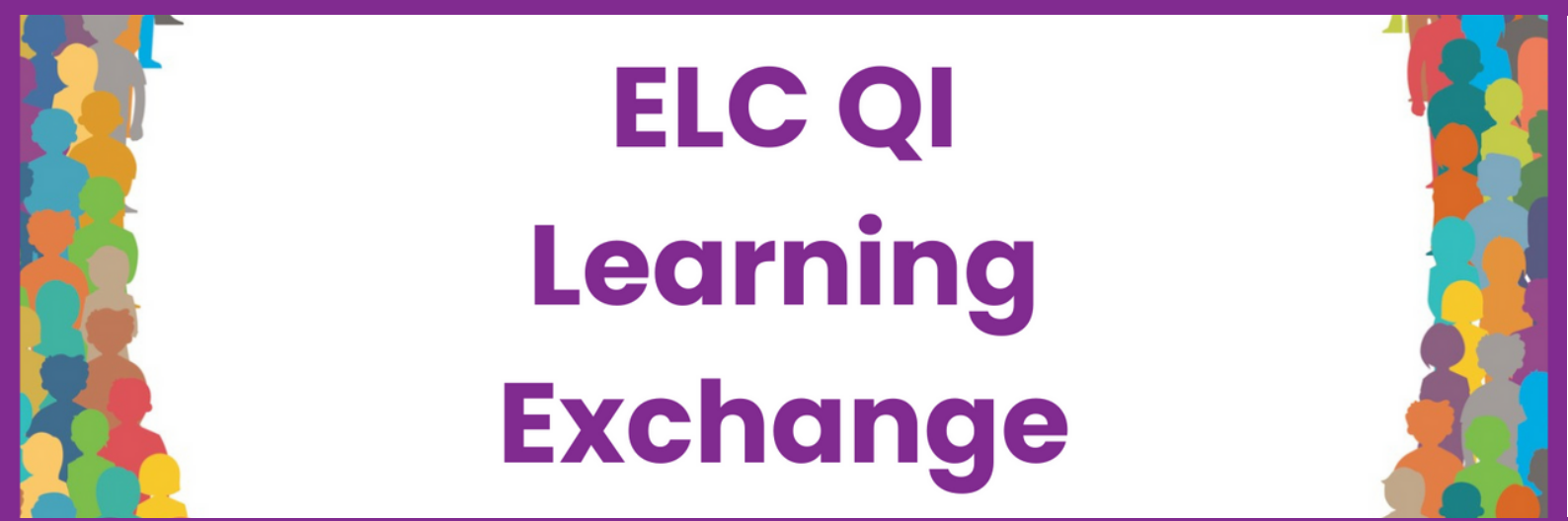
You can see the data on early child development in your area on the [Public Health Scotland dashboard](#). The information is drawn from routine child health reviews. Look out for the latest stats being published on 23rd April!

More information on the national programme can be found on the Scottish Government website: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/early-child-development-transformational-change-programme/>

Support caregivers’ well-being & capacity to provide nurturing care

Create a culture, environment, economy and society that enhances early child development

Integrate policies and services, ensuring they are evidence based, family centred and responsive to need



ELC QI Learning Exchange

Our next Learning Exchange Fringe Event is taking place on Tuesday 30th April from 16.00 – 17.00. We will be talking all things **Terrific Two's**, thinking about eligibility, uptake and hearing your stories on providing a quality experience for our younger children and their families.

It's an opportunity to grab a coffee and connect online with colleagues from the ELC sector across Scotland. We will also be joined by colleagues from the Scottish Government Policy Team and The Improvement Service. An invitation has been sent to all registered members with joining instructions.

If you are not already a member of the Learning Exchange, you can find out more on the CYPIC [website](#) or sign up for our mailing list [here](#). We also connect via X (Twitter) and a dedicated GLOW Team.

You may have seen the Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise recently announced the launch of a Continuous Professional Learning portal for childcare professionals – your one stop shop for quality assured CPL resources: <https://cpldirectory.elc.sssc.uk.com>



Early Language and Communication

In April 2023 we approached local authorities through the ADES Early Years Network and offered an opportunity for teams to be identified to participate in the [ELC QI Learning Exchange Collaborate Programme](#), to consider our theory of change locally.

Our four partners are Dumfries and Galloway, Falkirk, Perth and Kinross and Shetland with five teams joining from each local authority.

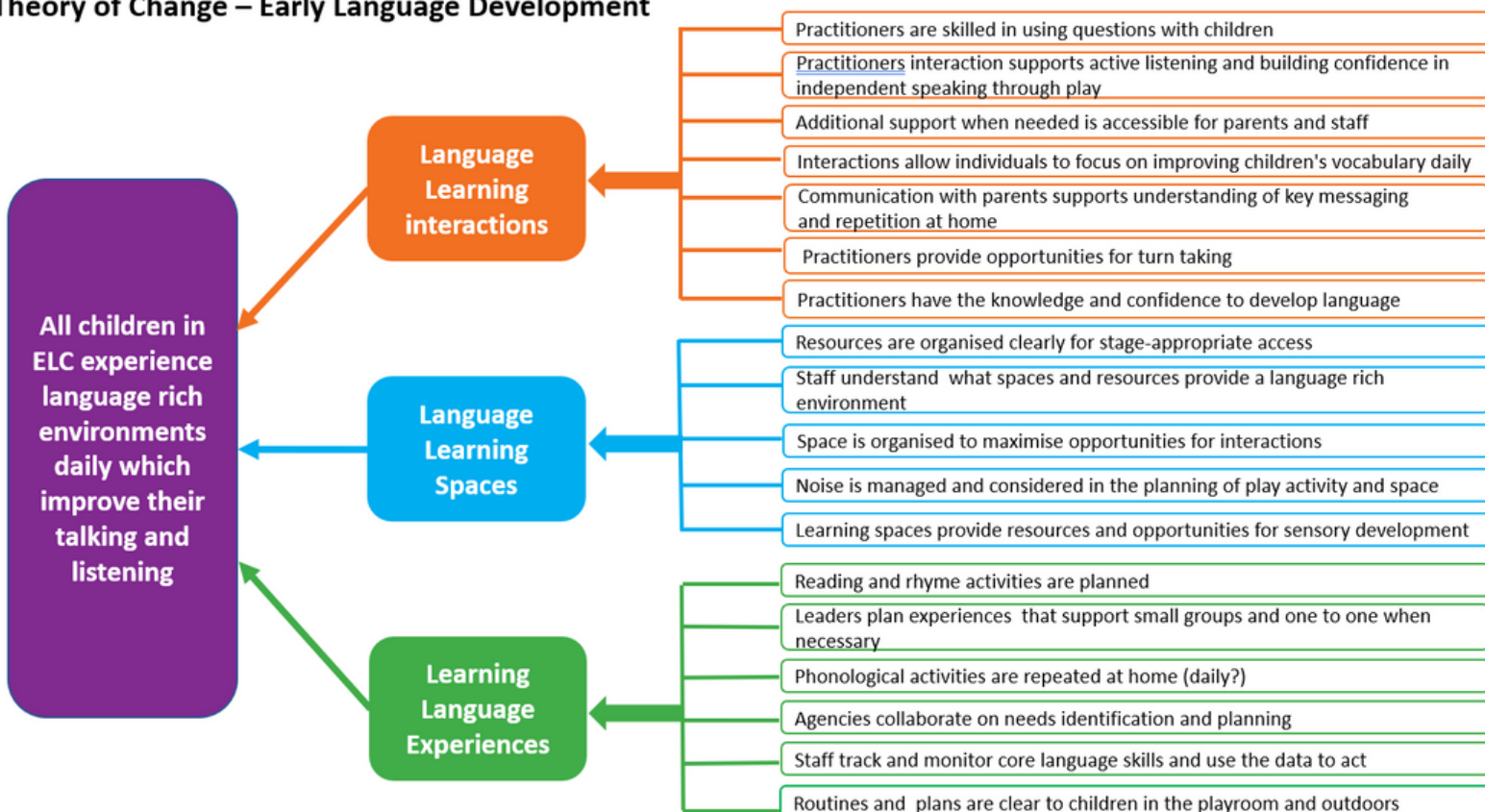
Throughout the past 8 months we have focussed on the areas participants identified from the driver diagram as priorities for improvement:

- Practitioners have the knowledge and confidence to develop language.
- Space is organised to maximise opportunities for interactions.
- Reading and rhyme activities are planned.
- Staff track and monitor core language skills and use the data to act.

We have been asking questions about each of these. What do we do now, how do we know, what are our gaps and strengths, what could we do differently, how and who will test the change, what difference does that make?

Over the past few months our focus has been on testing changes and we will share some of the learning from participants through our Teams channel in Glow and X (Twitter) soon.

Theory of Change – Early Language Development

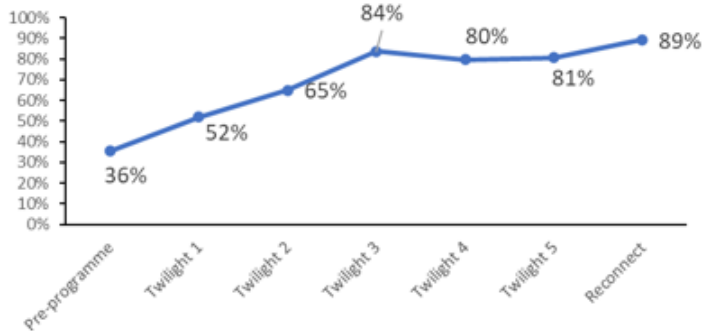




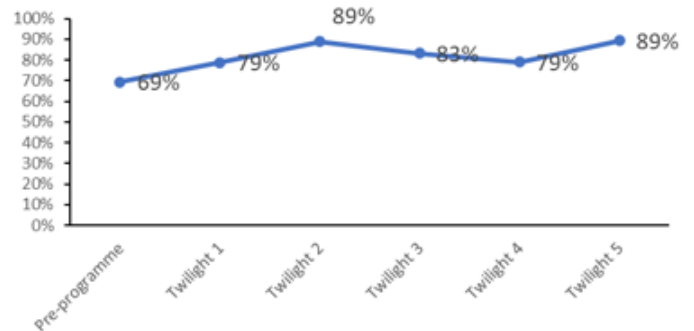
National Improving Writing Programme

Wave 2 local authorities recently came together to share their learning and reconnect in Glasgow and Stornoway. Yet again, participants shared the value of using improvement science in their classrooms with measurable impact already recorded. The composition of this wave has led to a greater proportion of composite classes, therefore, as well as monitoring impact in Curriculum for Excellence first level, the programme is tracking the proportion of children catching up with their expected age and stage. Process measures from Wave 2, Cohort 1 are encouraging:

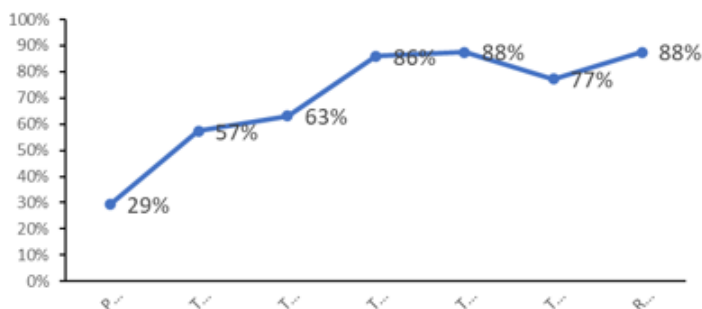
% of teachers confident to **teach** writing
Extremely or very



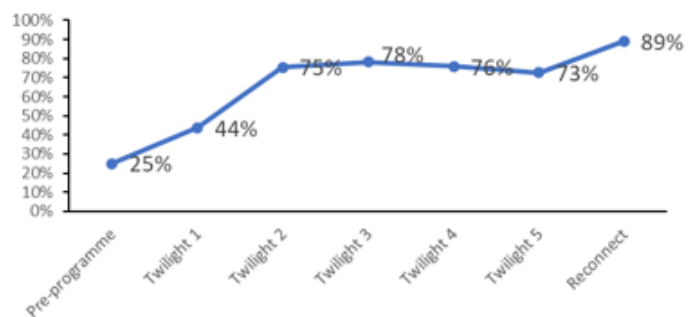
% of teachers who **enjoy** teaching writing
A great deal or a lot



% of teachers confident to **assess** writing
Extremely or very



% of pupils **enjoying** writing
A great deal or a lot



"I have just loved seeing the progress from my pupils that I didn't think were going to get first level. They are flourishing"

Participating Class Teacher

It was great to hear from the children:

"I am motivated to write because I know how to be successful."

"My writing is waaaay better than it was before because I have been practicing."

"I can't wait for my mum to see my work on parents evening"

Muirtown PS, Highland, have recorded pupil feedback in a video:

<https://vimeo.com/925078318>



Teachers in Wave 2 Cohort 1 are now shifting to maintain these improvements and we will continue to support head teachers and local leads to build their infrastructure for implementation. This programme is spread in a systematic way to maintain fidelity. Cohort 2 is now underway across all five local authorities with Local Leads busy managing and supporting them with connection and input from national faculty. Menstrie PS in Clackmannanshire baked a QI cake – surely the first ever edible run chart! It was delicious too!



Now is the time to visit cypic.co.uk to read the full Wave 1 Evaluation. All five participating local authorities achieved 70% or more in Curriculum for Excellence first level last year, and 16 participating schools increased their first level writing outcome by over 20 percentage points.

Next steps

Wave 3 are being welcomed on board and we will be visiting local leads and head teachers in each local authority this Spring ahead of the September launch.

Networks in Education

Three networks have delivered a series of sessions over the last few months:

- Improvement Science Writing Network (for teachers from the writing programme to further their learning)
- School-Wide Spread Network (for Headteachers and school leaders working on the implementation and spread of writing)
- Improvement Science in Education Network (a discussion and learning space for anyone in Education using QI)

The networks are run by volunteer steering groups and rely upon our national network of improvers. Thank you to everyone who has contributed over the last 6 months – the conversation and learning has been rich and we know from our evaluations how many of you have turned what we have learned from colleagues into action locally. We appreciate your time and open reflection! More information and future dates are on the [CYPIC website](http://cypic.co.uk).