



Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative

CYPIC NEWSLETTER

October 2024

Who we are

CYPIC's purpose is to bring focus, connection and method (quality improvement) where it is most needed to improve the wellbeing and life chances of babies, 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

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Welcome to our Autumn 2024 edition!

We have a jam-packed edition so read on to find out more about:

- The National Early Language & Communication Project
- Connecting and improving with the ELC QI Learning Exchange
- Learning from using QI to support families in East Lothian
- Top tips for applying QI to your work from Tracey at NHS Fife
- The latest on our National Improving Writing Programme
- How to join the Improvement Science in Education Network



Photo by Scott Webb on Unsplash



National Early Language & Communication Project

Since the pandemic, the number of young children experiencing speech, language and communication difficulties has increased and we know from research that children living in poverty suffer disproportionately from language delay. This situation is not unique to Scotland and the trend has been seen around the globe.

Acknowledging health inequalities and a post-pandemic crisis around early language and communication in Scotland's youngest populations, the National Early Language and Communication (NELC) project was created, hosted in Education Scotland, to work alongside existing teams across the country dedicated to early language and communication development from pre-birth to 5 years.



The team have had the opportunity to engage with local early childhood teams across Scotland, delving into discussions about what is working well and the challenges faced in nurturing early language and communication. Their journey has been a celebration of shared passions and aligned goals with an unwavering belief that creating conditions to nurture whole systems approaches to early communication development will drive meaningful, positive outcomes.

One of the early rewards of this approach has been uncovering success stories and innovative approaches woven into local communities. We recommend exploring the amazing array of early SLC practice sharing storyboards that have been gathered from across Scotland and shared on the project's website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/creatingtheconditions/>

You can also find out about the national Early Language Theory of Change that his work contributes to on the CYPIC website:

<https://cypic.co.uk/focus/early-language-communication/>

ELC QI Learning Exchange

The ELC QI Learning Exchange is a community of practice for the ELC workforce to share learning on how to best improve outcomes during the early years using an evidence based QI approach. This includes sharing learning about what is working locally, developing skills around QI and using data to inform practice. You can find out more on our website: <https://cypic.co.uk/focus/elc-qi-learning-exchange/>

Most of our activity last session had a focus on Early Language and Communication and we will continue to work closely with the NELC Project to share learning on this using our GLOW site and online events.

Our new focus for 2024/25 will be all things **Terrific 2s**, with particular emphasis on uptake of the national 2 year old offer (building on previous work including the [Improvement Pack](#)) and how we track and monitor the development and progress of our youngest children (using data to act at individual, setting and authority level).



Photo by Fiona Duncan-Kerr (Childminder, Scottish Borders)

We are offering another Learning Group underpinned by the [NES QI Modules on Turas](#) as this is a great way to build or refresh your QI knowledge and apply it to a specific issue. If you're grappling with anything 2's this would be an opportunity for you to spend some time with fellow practitioners across the country. Previous learning groups had great feedback and were unique in the mix of participants from across all sectors of ELC.

If you'd like to find out more about the Learning Group please [register to join the Exchange](#) then email CYPIC@gov.scot by Monday 21 October for details of how to apply.



Using QI to support families in East Lothian

Lauren Nicolson is the Project Manager for Families Together East Lothian (FTEL), an early intervention support service to help families get the right support at the right time.

We recently caught up with Lauren to hear about the learning gained through the FTEL approach. We've shared some of her key insights below but you can [read the full blog](#) on our website.

"Using QI has given us clarity on what we are doing, why we are doing it, and what measurable impact we could achieve.

QI has helped us to Understand our System by hearing what families in our communities really need. This data helped us understand what FTEL needed to be, and in turn, shaped our theory of change for the service."



Using QI to support families in Fife

Tracey Aird is the Lead for Prevention & Early Intervention in the Children & Young People's Occupational Therapy Service (CYPOT) in NHS Fife. She's been using and promoting quality improvement to her colleagues since graduating from the Scottish Improvement Leader Programme in 2018!

Tracey recently shared more about the impact her team's work is having on families and her top tips on using QI! We've shared some of her key insights below but you can [read the full blog](#) on our website.

"The impact has been profound: we've seen reduced wait times in OT, increased family satisfaction, and are fostering a culture of collaboration."

QI has transformed our thinking, making continuous improvement a shared goal and empowering everyone to contribute to better outcomes."



"Do not do this alone! You need "tools, pals & courage" when embarking on QI.

If you'd like to share your experiences of applying QI in a future newsletter, please contact the national team at CYPIC@gov.scot



National Improving Writing Programme

September saw the much anticipated and successful launch of Wave 3 and Implementation Wave of the National Improving Writing Programme.

Teachers from Aberdeenshire, Dundee, East Ayrshire, Glasgow and Moray (along with their Headteachers and Local Leads) came together in Dundee to learn about Quality Improvement methodology and how to begin implementing the Writing Programme in their local context. Following a day of collaboration and planning, Moray Headteacher **Fiona Stevenson** commented that the '**clarity of the programme and seeing participants focusing in on small measurable steps was a real highlight of the day**'.



The Implementation Wave supports Wave 1 and 2 schools in their sustainability of high-quality writing. Participants receive the same training as their peers previously received, ensuring consistency and continuity for pupils in those schools. Participants receive the same training as their peers previously received, ensuring consistency and continuity for pupils in those schools. Teachers came together in Glasgow and the buzz in the room was palpable as they were building on the success of their colleagues in previous cohorts and were keen to continue the improvements seen in attainment. **Jody and Kirsty**, Primary 3 teachers from Dalbeattie Primary School **loved chatting with other teachers and sharing ideas and couldn't wait to get started as soon as they got back!**



Spreading the word around the world

Colleagues from the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) visited Scotland in September. Sixteen international guests were welcomed by East Lothian's Local Leads Nick Trussler, Lauren Davies and Mel Bertram and the staff and pupils of Sanderson's Wynd Primary. Staff gave an overview of their Improvement Journey; sharing data, lessons learned and key hints and tips on how to take improvement work to scale.

The visitors from Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, India, Northern Ireland and Scotland had many questions. We were just glad to have the experts on hand: the pupils of Sanderson's Wynd!



They were able to answer confidently and demonstrated pride in the improvements they have made. Superb writers with a passion for improvement.

"Our staff are so passionate about what they do and about improving outcomes for our learners. They were delighted to be able to share their experiences, and also for our pupils to be able to give their voice in how the improvement methodology has impacted on them, their confidence and their attainment. Our kids can talk about run charts, teaching aims and medians all day! There is a genuine excitement about Writing in our school now."

(Lynsey Blair, Headteacher, Sanderson's Wynd)



"It was a real privilege to observe children proudly sharing their writing with the visitors."

(Jan Adair, CYPIC IA)

"We have overwhelmingly positive feedback and the attendees were very inspired."

(Andreia Cavaco, IHI)





Improvement Science in Education Network

Calling all improvers across Education!

You told us you'd really appreciate a space to hear where others are doing QI work across the curriculum and education because sometimes it is nice simply speak with likeminded people from across the country, and to get a "fresh set of eyes" on an issue.

The Improvement Science in Education Network is designed to do just that. It's an informal space to ask for help or talk ideas through. If you are aware of local innovation which would benefit from further testing, this is the place to share.

Yes please send me the invitation!

Hold Tuesday 26 November 3:30-4:45pm in your diary then use the below link to sign up and join our next conversation.

<https://forms.office.com/e/bdV8FbpUxK>

See you for our Winter edition!