



Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative

CYPIC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

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 2026 edition!

Read on to find out more about:

- The National Early Language Improvement Collaborative
- Nesta's Getting it right for babies publication
- How to apply for a place on the QI for Senior Leaders Programme
- Practitioner stories from the National Improving Writing Programme

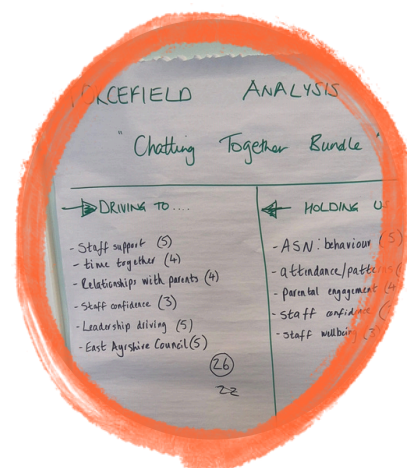


From Commitment to Action: Early Language Improvement Collaborative Drives Language Improvement

The Early Language Improvement Collaborative (ELIC) launch on 10 August brought together leaders from settings across East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and North Lanarkshire, creating a powerful sense of energy, enthusiasm and shared purpose.

The aim of the programme is to increase the number of children aged two who are early sentence users as they transition into ante-preschool. Developing communication and language skills at this important stage helps build the foundations for future learning, wellbeing and positive relationships.

Teams engaged enthusiastically in discussion, learnt about forcefield analysis and reflected on how the consistent use of the [Chatting Together](#) principles can strengthen everyday interactions with children. Participants demonstrated a strong commitment to improving outcomes for children and families through focused, evidence informed improvement work.



The positivity, collaboration and determination displayed across all participating settings provided an inspiring start and a strong foundation for achieving meaningful and lasting improvement together.

Watch this space - we'll share learning and progress so far in our next edition!



Getting it right for every baby



Nesta has published a report exploring how Scotland can strengthen support for babies, young children and their families through a greater focus on prevention and early help. The [Getting it right for babies report](#) draws on learning from workshops, interviews and survey responses involving local authorities and partners across Scotland.

The report highlights many strengths within Scotland's early years system, including a strong commitment to prevention, relational practice, collaboration and the principles of GIRFEC. It also identifies common challenges, including variation in the support available to families, workforce capacity pressures, fragmented data systems and the need for stronger focus on babies and the earliest years within policy and planning.

Five areas for action are proposed: strengthening leadership and governance for early childhood; ensuring funding and accountability support preventative approaches; improving access to early help; supporting workforce capacity and collaboration; and improving data and infrastructure. A particular theme is the need to make it easier for families to access support before difficulties escalate, through more consistent pathways and stronger community-based provision.

The report provides valuable insights for national and local partners as work continues across Scotland to improve outcomes for babies, children and families. We encourage colleagues to read the report and consider its implications for local planning, improvement activity and partnership working.

Nesta and Celcis are holding a free lunchtime webinar on Thursday 8 October to explore these findings and what they mean for policy, strategy, and frontline practice. More details on the webinar and how to register are available here: [Getting it right from the start: Strengthening early help for families from pregnancy through early childhood](#).

Quality Improvement for Senior Leaders

Programme open for applications

Calling all Headteachers, Depute headteachers and Education system leaders who want to carry out sustainable improvement!

The QI for Senior Leaders Programme is designed for central leaders, headteachers and other school leaders to become equipped to build quality and skills for improvement into their local authority and / or school's strategy and support their staff to make sustained change.

This hands on programme was developed by CYPIC in response to leaders requesting information on how best to support staff to use quality improvement (QI) in their area of work. It is delivered over 15 months with 6 in person days and brings together a large number of school and central team leaders to support the application of QI in an education planning cycle. It has the benefit of collaborative working and shared learning so leaders and their teams have the understanding and tools required to improve outcomes.

Here's what last year's cohort told us:

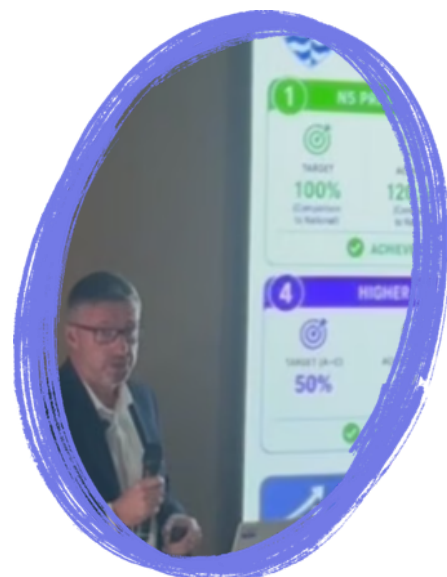
"I have found this the most beneficial CLPL I have had and can see how it is impacting on my school"

"I cannot tell you how empowered I feel and this has completely changed the way I look at school improvement. Over time I can see it impacting positively."

Want to get a flavour of the learning in less than 2 minutes?

Watch David Hyslop from Stranraer Academy sharing his story: <https://vimeo.com>

Find out more about the programme here:
[QI for Senior Leaders Information Leaflet](#)



Our next cohort is expected to run from February 2027 to May 2028, apply by Friday 4 December. [Apply for QI for Senior Leaders Programme](#)



Year 5 of the National Improving Writing Programme

There are now 25 local authorities delivering the Writing Programme in their schools. It is a great example of how using the quality improvement journey for methodical spread can move from a classroom innovation to a national social movement for empowerment and improved outcomes. Keep implementing the bundle and be responsive to your data, children across Scotland are benefiting from your work.

September saw the launch of Wave 5 of the Programme. Welcome to participants from Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, Stirling and West Lothian. We're 2 sessions in and are already witnessing children enjoying writing more and experiencing success.

The third national implementation cohort also brought together 162 more teachers from previous waves so schools can build capacity in QI and writing across P4 and spread to other year groups. We have increased the scale of testing in secondary schools this year with 27 teachers from 10 secondaries joining us to explore the application of the change theory in their settings.

As always a huge, fired-up, thank you to our speakers: Heather Lees from South Park Primary in South Lanarkshire and Kirsteen Havlin from Auchinleck Primary in East Ayrshire. Their insights, honesty and impact told a valuable story to new participants. See the next page for a couple of their ideas!

And thanks to our secondary colleagues, Grahame Johnstone from Dalkeith High in Midlothian and Cathryn Young from North West Community Campus in Dumfries & Galloway, for guiding us on how you have taken the bundle into secondary schools with success.

Combined with the many local cohorts launching this month, there are hundreds more people adopting the bundle and applying QI in their classrooms this session. We will continue to share the learning across our writing network so keep in touch to learn more.

Sharing Learning from the Writing Programme

Heather Lees from South Park Primary in South Lanarkshire and Kirsteen Havlin from Auchinleck Primary in East Ayrshire shared how they have supported their pupils to become more effective at carrying out their self-checks.

Kirsteen has taught the children to self-check effectively. "Read-Check-Change" is becoming a class mantra and really helping the learners to use their 5 minutes effectively so that they achieve their success criteria.



Self Check Time

What do I do at self check time?

READ - CHECK - CHANGE

1. **READ** your sentences out loud and **CHECK** they make sense.
Have you got all of your punctuation?
2. **CHANGE** anything that needs changed to be successful!
3. Highlight all of the punctuation you have used.
4. Complete your success criteria grid.
5. With a peer or teacher help, fix any mistakes.



Heather shared the pupil self-assessment checklist used in her class. Each child is guided through the requirements of their success criteria, and can reflect on their successful writing across the week.



TOOLS

Writing Targets		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Target: 	Group					
Yes 						
I can write at least 3 sentences using correct punctuation.	3					
I can use a Capital Letter in my writing.						
I can use a full stop in my writing.						
I can use finger spaces in my writing.						
I can use connectives in my writing.						



SELF ASSESSMENT TOOLS
REDUCTION IN MARKING



