**Building Blocks to Words Training Package - Executive Summary**

## **Background Information:**

In recent years, a lot of training has been developed to support and upskill teaching across the early years (EYs) workforce in relation to supporting speech, language, and communication (SLC) skills of young children.

A large proportion of this is directed at practitioners working with children aged 2 and above.

A task group was set up consisting of representatives from the ‘GM Early Years Speech and Language Leads group’. The group aim was to devise a training package that would offer support and guidance for those practitioners who work with young babies.

## **What is the ‘Building Blocks for Words’ Package?**

It is a training module that has been written by a group of Speech and Language Therapists, and Early Years leads. It consists of a power point presentation with information, points for discussion, and video clips. There is also a bank of resources available that compliments and reinforces the module.

Additional guidance is given regarding examples of how it can be adapted and presented.

It also has a practitioner before and after evaluation tool, which can be used to evidence the impact of the training module.

## **What is included in the content of the training?**

* Using early words
* Understanding spoken words
* Early gestures: interpreting and using
* Understand everyday routines and situations
* Early conversation: taking turn in interactions
* Shared attending and listening: sharing curiosity
* Adult to baby interaction: what you do makes a big difference
* How babies communicate with us
* What the ‘mind minded’ approach is
* How to become an observant and responsive practitioner
* How to create a communication friendly environment for babies
* How to support and enhance communication through everyday routines
* Resources and materials available to support practice.
* How to support parents knowledge and understanding of their babies communication journey.

## **Who can deliver this training?**

Professionals who have a specialist level of knowledge in line with the SLC Framework. [Link to Speech, Language and Communication Framework](https://www.slcframework.org.uk/the-slcf-levels/specialist-level/). It is crucial that you are able to evidence that you are at the Specialist level, within the SLC Framework, before delivering this package of training.

## **Who is this training package for?**

This training is to support all practitioners working with babies up to their first words, typically 0-18 months. It offers a universal approach to supporting all babies while they start to develop their early language and communication skills.

It is important to recognise children identified as having a significant risk; ensure you follow your local guidance on referrals to speech and language therapy.

## **What are the aims of the training?**

* To understand that babies learn language from before they are born
* Understand our role in supporting babies’ language development; What to look out for and how to respond

## **How should this training be delivered?**

This training can be delivered in a variety of ways. Below are some examples of how it can be delivered.

* **You could deliver this face to face internally in a setting with practitioners**: Agree on a schedule of delivery i.e. if one session will be delivered at a time over two 1.5 hour sessions, or a single 3 hour session.
* **You could deliver this face to face externally for practitioners for a number of settings:** This could be co-ordinated by your local training team and booked via a central system. Again, this could be in one or two sessions.
* **You could deliver this virtually**: As above, except via a virtual delivery platform.

## **What materials are provided within the package?**

An approved PowerPoint with the training slides will be available for you to use *(available upon request).*

Alongside this training, you will provide learners with a pre and post evaluation questionnaire, key messages handouts and reflection documents. Reflections should be completed between sessions to allow support to be offered by the trainer. Learners are required to complete these as part of the training package.

A certificate can also be provided to learners on completion.

An optional follow-up session can be offered after the training to review if learners have embedded the training into practice.