Building Blocks to Words Training Pilot

Participants were asked to rate how much they agreed with the following statements before and after training:

* + - 1. I am aware of the different ways that babies communicate with us
1. I am confident in knowing how to respond to babies’ communication
2. I am confident with how to interpret babies’ feelings
3. I know where to go (e.g. websites, resources) to find out more information to help babies’ communication skills

The graph below shows participants rating of their confidence levels before and after training. Overall, participants agreed more strongly with the statements following training:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pre**  | Post |
| Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 0% | 3% | 11% | 68% | 18% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 10% | 88% |

This training program was trialled with professionals working in nurseries in Wigan, Bury, and Rochdale. It was also trialled with professionals working in Children’s Centres in Manchester.

Participant’s responses to the 4 statements were similar across localities and roles.

Almost all participants (91%) felt they were aware of the different ways babies communicate with us before training. However, only 61% felt they knew where to find information about baby communication before training, compared to 98% after training.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  Statement | Percentage rated ‘agree’ or above **before** training | Percentage rated ‘agree’ or above **after** training |
| I am aware of the different ways that babies communicate with us | 91 | 97 |
| I am confident in knowing how to respond to babies’ communication | 85 | 98 |
| I am confident with how to interpret babies’ feelings | 82 | 98 |
| I know where to go (e.g. websites, resources) to find out more information to help babies’ communication skills | 61 | 98 |

Feedback following the training was overwhelmingly positive. Participants were keen for this training to be available for their colleagues and other roles, such as creche workers. Participants gave specific examples of how they would implement this training and share it with coworkers, as well as key messages they planned to take away from the training:

I fed this back to my team and they were so excited that they asked me to do more at the next team meeting. I’ve fed back about the 1001 days and other things recently, and it felt like this training really linked these things together so everyone was working toward the same things. You could really see how the same messages threaded through everything. – Outreach Worker

This training has really helped me to focus on the basics of early communication with babies. I aim to use the tools and resources to support ongoing practice in our baby rooms.

We have also put up a large display area for parents detailing information from the training regarding how babies communicate, and how this can be supported!

-Nursery Manager

The main thing I have taken away from today’s session is to always listen and talk to babies no matter what

* Early Years Professional