What is WellComm?



WellComm is a speech and language toolkit used by early years and primary practitioners, such as nursery workers, health visitors and teachers, to identify any speech and language difficulties quickly and easily, in early years and primary school pupils, so that appropriate support can be provided.

Toolkits come with an age-appropriate *Big Book of Ideas* providing a total of over 150 instant, play-based activities so appropriate action can be taken straight away. Activities can be used with parents at home too, so that support is provided whether or not a child is referred to a speech and language therapist.

*WellComm Early Years* is suitable for use with children from the age of 6 months to 6 years, and can be used to identify any speech or language delays early, as this is key to the progressive development of a young child’s overall development.

How is WellComm used?

The first part of WellComm is the Screening Tool, which involves the diagnostic assessments used to evaluate the child’s language skills, allowing our Bright Stars practitioner to draw up a detailed profile. From this, informed judgments can be made about children who require close attention and support from within their own setting, and children who might benefit from referral to an outside agency for additional support.

Children are screened using a combination of techniques – observation, discussion with the parent/s and screening by asking the child to complete a variety of tasks. This ensures that the results obtained and the conclusions drawn are more accurate than using one approach alone. It is also fun and motivating for the children.

Once children are screened, they are given a colour-code according to their overall score:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Red | those most likely to need intervention from a specialist service |
| Amber | those for whom extra support and the highlighted activities may be enough to help them develop age-appropriate language skills |
| Green | those not considered in need of any extra input or assessment *at the moment* |

The second part of WellComm is the Intervention Tool, which consists of online resources and the *Big Book of Ideas*, which provides focused teaching and intervention activities to meet the individual needs of each child.  Through *The Big Book of Ideas*, WellComm provides a large number of bespoke, fun and practical intervention activities for use with children across the entire age range, which are designed to stimulate and improve the speech and language skills of all children at all levels.

With the fun activities being implemented we hope to see a natural improvement within the setting of a childs speech and language development, children who were once screening amber may, with the additional support improve to green. Resulting in no additional support being needed.

The WellComm is all about intervening at a young age to prevent problems along the way. Here at Bright Stars we will screen children at 12 months of age, 2 years of age and 3.5 years of age. You will be told prior to the screening and once it has been completed you will be given clear guidance on the results.