

# What Practitioners Might Say to Parents



**Sharing Results**

# Notes about this manual

Following the language screening, observations with the child, and conversations with the parent, practitioners come to a professional judgement about the type of support that can best support the child's development. Depending on the level of need, the type of support that is offered to families can be categorised into four groups:

## **Universal signposting**

Printed and online resources (e.g. GM 10 Top tips for talking, Tiny Happy People, The Big Bok of Ideas, Words for Life, NHS Best Start in Life)

Universal sessions offered at the Family Hubs (rhyme time, music and play sessions)

## 2) The above + **Individual advice to parents**

## 3) The above + **Targeted support**

Making it Real

Play, Learn, Grow

## 4) The above + **Contacting the Better Communication Team**

When sharing results and making suggestions for support, it can be challenging to put into words what to say to a family. This guides lists phrases that may help; these have been co-designed with practitioners and parents in Oldham, and were informed by the literature, specifically work carried out by the ELIM-I Development Project Team (Newcastle University, 2025).

# Universal signposting message to all parents

If you would like some new ideas for activities that help your child develop his/her communication and language, this is a really good source.

*+ hand out flyer/send message with sources*

We also run rhyme time/music sessions and stay and play sessions. Come and join us, these sessions are a really great place with activities that are fun and help learning. There are toys, sand and water for them to play with, space to play outdoors and much more! Sessions are free and can be booked online.



Would you like me to book you in one of those sessions?

*+ hand out flyer/send message with session times*

How do you feel about that?

Do you have any further questions?

# Universal signposting only

Practitioners might say ...



From our conversations and from the activities we did today it seems like your child is doing well with their communication and language. I have no concerns. Carry on doing what you are doing, and if you would like some new ideas for activities, this is a really good source.

+ continue with universal signposting message (previous slide)

# Universal signposting + individual advice to parents

Practitioners might say ...

Based on how your child did the WellComm activities today and interacted with us, I have no concerns. I am aware however that you mentioned some concerns and described some things you think your child struggles with. Let's think together about how we can help.

**OR**

From our conversations and from the activities we did today it seems like your child might need a little help to support them with their communication and language.

**+**



Often there are some simple steps we can take to help children's learning . We can talk about those with you, and we have some guidance which can help.

Would you like for us to book in a time for this?

+ continue with universal signposting message

Do you have any further questions?

# Universal signposting + targeted support

## Practitioners might say ...

From our conversations and from the activities we did today it seems like your child might need a little help to support them with their communication and language.

We run session to practice with parents some specific ways of communicating which we know help children learn. We know you might be doing lots of these already. When children are finding it harder to communicate we need to find different ways of helping them, and ways to embed these strategies in everyday routines and play.

I think that it would be good for you and your child to come and join some of these sessions.



Our XX sessions are all about finding different strategies to support your child in their development, and about practicing those. There is this intervention [name] which I think would really help by giving you the tools to use at home.

Can I add you to the waiting list?

+ continue with universal signposting message (previous slide)

Do you have any further questions?

## + Contact Better Communications Team

Practitioners might say ...



Based on our conversations and the activities we did, I think it would be good to ask the Better Communications Team for some next steps and advice, and to check how your child is progressing.

Are you happy for me to contact them?

Do you have any questions?

# Reference

Newcastle University (2025). Early Language Identification Measure – Intervention. Intervention resources, training and handbook. <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/elim-i/elim-i/elim-ittrainingandhandbooks/>