

ELSEC Newsletter



Spring term 2025



Spotlight on..

Role play

Role play is an integral part of any setting in supporting the speech, language and communication skills of every child. It allows children to be creative, building upon their own experiences, use vocabulary or simply to develop the social skills required for play, including how to interact with peers. Adults modelling for children is a crucial part of this too.

Some of the great things we love seeing in the role play areas at our ELSEC settings include:

- Furniture and resources at the children's height.
- Labels (word and picture) for key items in the area
- Books linked to the theme of the role play area
- Real life objects that children may recognise from home
- An opportunity to dress up or use a lanyard with the role identified (in pictorial form)
- An opportunity to mark make eg. shopping list, food order, invitation

ELSEC updates

Since the launch of the ELSEC project, in September 2024, the ELSEC team have worked alongside settings to support and deliver Talk Boost groups, complete a classroom audit of every pre-school, Reception and Year 1 classroom in every setting in the project, set up parent information sessions last term and further workshops for parents this term. This term we are offering whole school CPD around 'Using and Understanding Questions'.

Talk Boost stats:

- Almost 1800 children screened using the Talk Boost tool.
- 60 additional staff trained in Talk Boost.
- 106 Talk Boost groups set up
- Around 75% of children who have been in a Talk Boost group now assessed as green.
- 70 communication audits completed.
- 80 parents attended the Talk Boost information sessions.

What's next?

- Continue to meet with settings to discuss data and decide on the next stage of intervention, including further Talk Boost or targeted plus intervention.
- BEST (Building Early Sentence Therapy) sessions begin.
- Vocabulary CPD for settings in the summer term.

Here are some of the lovely role play areas in ELSEC settings:



Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Oswestry

At Holy Trinity the role play area includes a low level unit with a full length mirror for children to see themselves dressed up.

The shelves and pegs allow the children to see what is easily available to use and the full length mirror helps them to see themselves as their chosen character.

ABC Nursery, Hollinswood

At ABC the staff have cleverly used a large cotton reel, covered in turf fabric, as a table where the children can move around the role-play space, easily accessing all of the resources. The table is at the perfect height for the nursery children and the design of it allows children to be at the table facing each other, communicating easily with each other in a shared interest role-play activity.



Lawley Primary School

At Lawley Primary School the staff in Reception have created outdoor role play areas to reflect current areas of learning and this also compliments, and extends, indoor role play areas.

In this lovely outdoor area, the children have access to a range of real objects, have visuals to support key vocabulary and a set of lanyards for children to select their role within the garden centre.