

ELSEC Newsletter



Summer term 2025



Spotlight on..

Book areas

A love of books helps young children develop strong language skills by exposing them to new words, sentence patterns, and storytelling styles. Reading regularly boosts vocabulary, improves listening and comprehension, and encourages clear expression. It also builds a strong foundation for writing and speaking with confidence and creativity.



- Make your area look inviting. Ensure books stand out as the main feature and are rotated frequently.
- Have books forward facing for easy access.
- Have a cosy space to sit and read books
- Use puppets or props to retell key texts
- Include familiar stories that the children may have heard.

ELSEC updates

By the end of the summer term 2025, more than 1800 3-6 year olds will have been impacted by the ELSEC project, with universal, targeted and targeted plus support being available to meet the needs of each individual child.

The number of children working at an age appropriate level for communication and language has more than doubled, with staff at each setting having greater capacity to continue to meet the needs of children for years to come.

Settings are now using a combination of interventions including Talk Boost, Concept Cat, BEST and the narrative approach, tailored to the age and stage of the children. Staff now have the skills to continue this amazing work into the next term and beyond.

Settings with a pre-school have all had the opportunity to run 3 Talk Away parent sessions, with positive feedback from both parents and staff.

The team are currently rolling out 'Supporting Vocabulary across the day' for all schools and settings.

What's next?

- Finish all interventions for children in current ELSEC settings and rescreen all red / amber children before the end of term.
- Round off involvement with current settings.
- ELSEC Forum continues for all settings.

Here are some of the wonderful book areas in our ELSEC settings:

Oakengates Nursery School

At Oakengates Nursery school staff have created a whole experience around a story. Set in a suitcase, there are multiple props to recreate or extend this familiar story, allowing for creativity of thought and language use.



Christ Church Primary School

This homely reading area in Y1 at Christ Church Primary School, in Cressage, creates the perfect environment for children to curl up with a book. Two featured authors plus a small collection of high quality texts complete the scene.

Hollinswood Primary School

Staff in the nursery at Hollinswood Primary School have reflected the wide range of languages spoken by children and their families in their selection of dual language books.



Parent Workshops

The ELSEC team have recently offered 3 parent sessions to all settings with nursery provision. These have been very well received with parents and carers having time to explore some communication themes with a member of the ELSEC team before the children, themselves joining them for lots of fun. Each week had some key messages:



Early Years Language Opportunities

At Footsteps Nursery, in Oswestry, staff have loved making a photo book with their children, based on shared experiences within the setting. The children love to share the book and see photos of themselves, prompting some natural conversation opportunities. Here are some of the photos from their book:

