

# Early Years Conversation Project Evaluation Study

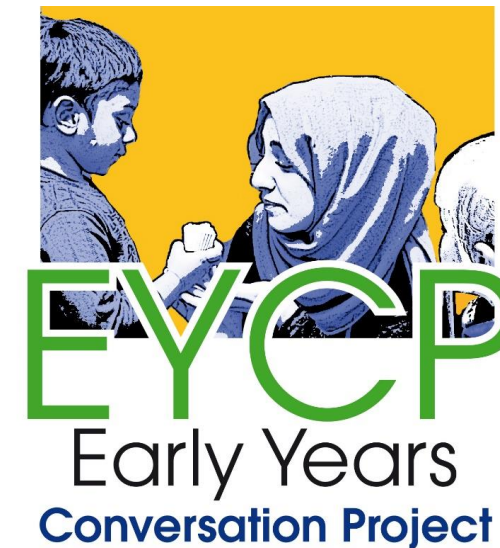
## *Information for Settings*

A Brighter Start, East London's Early Years Stronger Practice Hub is delighted to invite applications from early years' settings to take part in a study (funded by the Education Endowment Foundation) to evaluate the Early Years Conversation Project (EYCP). The team of researchers running the evaluation study are based at Durham University.

The EYCP is designed and delivered by the East London Research School (ELRS), and aims to improve children's communication and language skills. EYCP is a programme of professional development focused on training 'EYCP Champions' within settings. The EYCP Champion should be a room leader or nursery class teacher working directly with children aged 2 or 3. Participating settings will nominate a member of staff as EYCP Champion, and they will receive the training, mentor support and have access to the online learning platform. The setting manager or EYFS lead, will join for specific training sessions, and provide the Champion with support for the length of the programme.



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### Who can take part?

- Are located in the following London boroughs (**Enfield, Haringey, Waltham Forest, Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Islington, City of London, Redbridge, Barnet, Camden, Westminster, Newham, Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Greenwich and Brent**)
- Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) nursery or a state funded school-based nursery offering **Free Early Education and Childcare (FEE) for 2-year-olds**.
- Have a minimum of **8 children aged 2–years-old at the start of September 2023**, who will attend the setting for a **minimum of 15 hours** a week during the 2023-2024 school year.
- Will be able to commit to releasing one practitioner who works directly with 2-3-year-olds as the 'EYCP Champion' to attend training sessions throughout the project.
- Will be able to commit to releasing the setting manager or the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) lead for 3 training sessions, in addition to supporting the 'EYCP Champion' throughout the project.
- Have not participated in Manor Park Talks or Newham Communication Project.
- Are not taking part in the DfE's Early Years Professional Development Programme provided by Elkan or any other Early Years trials funded by the EEF or similar funder.

## What are the benefits for my nursery?

- Your setting will receive a promising approach that aims to improve children's communication and language development.
- There are financial incentives for participating (£150 at the start of the project and £250 at the end) and 50% of cover costs for attendance at training.
- You will receive the training for FREE.
- OFSTED also recently supported schools taking part in EEF trials: "... we don't want innovators to see the new framework as a brake. For example, if you are trying out new models as part of Education Endowment Foundation studies, or are working on new approaches to curriculum or teaching or assessment, that will be recognised." Amanda Spielman, HM Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills.

## What does the evaluation study involve?

As part of the evaluation study, 56 settings will be chosen at random to receive EYCP for FREE, the other 56 will continue as normal and form the important 'control group'. The control group will receive the training in the second year for FREE. Randomly selecting which settings receive the programme is essential as it is the best way to find out the impact the programme has on children's communication and language skills. Regardless of whether a setting randomly receives the intervention or the control group, ALL settings will:

- Inform and gain consent from parent/carers for children's participation evaluation study.
  - Share setting and child information with the evaluation team.
  - Complete two short questionnaires (in Sept/Oct and again in Jun/Jul), selected settings will take part in a focus group.
- Research Assistants will visit your setting to complete child assessments.

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For further information or to register your interest, please email [rizwana.rahman@sheringham-nur.newham.sch.uk](mailto:rizwana.rahman@sheringham-nur.newham.sch.uk) or complete the expression of interest form [here](#) before Sept 15th 2023.