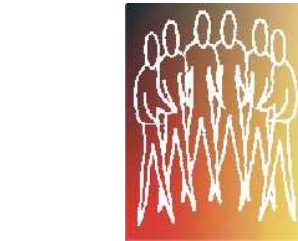


Linguistic Minority Development Worker for Multi-cultural Resource Centre (MCRC) and Sure Start, Language for Life Project, provides you with:

- Help with English language development of children (0-6) for whom English is an additional language;
- Help and information around bilingualism;
- Assessment and research of the needs of the children and their families;
- Sign Posting towards fulfilling these needs and access to our Speech and Language Therapists if needed;
- Information and help in relation to accessing mainstream health and education services;
- Contact with a wide range of minority ethnic and linguistic groups.

Please note that our services are free of charge for our clients.



MCRC & Sure Start



For further information please contact:

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Language for Life Project The Linguistic minority Development Worker



What you need to know
about:
Language for life project
&
*The offers of the Linguistic
Minority Development Worker*

*Bilingualism can increase opportunities
and choices. Bilingualism has definite
benefits for all children... Two languages:
twice the choice*

Aims, offers, possible barriers and conclusions

- The partners in the project are: Inner City South Belfast Sure Start, Inner City East Belfast Sure Start, the Multi-cultural Resource Centre, South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust, and Belfast education and Library Board,
- The language for life aims to establish a partnership, to manage and deliver an outreach and preventive program to make speech and language services and other development support, more accessible to young children aged between 0-6 years old who are at risk of speech and language delay or for whom English is not their first language.
- Speech and language delay in early years development has been shown to significantly affect educational attainment and social development in later years.

The project is primarily preventive and aims:

- to enhance existing services by giving education and child care professionals the skills to identify and address speech and language delay.
- to build capacity and skills within the early years sector to reduce the incidence of poor speech and language development and improve referral procedures when speech therapy is required.

The language for Life Project provides both:

- direct delivery of speech and language services to children,
- and more important, to built capacity among parents, individuals and professionals working with young children.

. The project is aimed at specific wards and areas in East and South Belfast where are high levels of deprivation and under achievement educational needs.

Language for Life Project is a partnership between statutory, voluntary and community organizations working with children and parents to improve local services.

The project is aiming to overcome the barriers that the children, parents and professionals encounter.

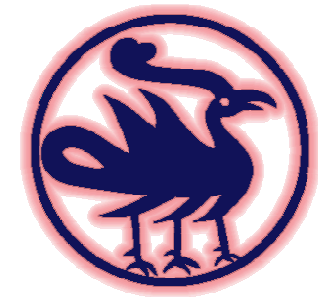
The main barriers in education experienced by children, particularly in disadvantaged communities, is:

- poor speech and language skills.
- Many young people from disadvantaged backgrounds start school with poor communication skills and at an early age they tend to do less well in terms of social and educational development in later years
- Young people with poor communication skills have been shown to be more likely to get involved in crime, to be unemployed and tend to have restricted opportunities to participate into the society

Conclusions:

- The partners in this project have developed a program that seeks to tackle the problems caused by poor communication skills in children, by not only working with the parents and children with speech and language difficulties, but also seeking to ensure that people working with children have the appropriate skills to both recognize at an earlier stage, and address, speech and language problems.
- This project is therefore about capacity building and sustainability, as well as tackling an existing problem.

Existing speech therapy will be enhanced and there will be greater interaction between disadvantaged communities and, education providers and health care providers



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