



Spotlight on Wentworth Nursery School

Wentworth Nursery School was the winner of the Early Years Setting of the Year Award at the 2013/14 Shine a Light Awards. Wentworth Nursery provides a comprehensive support system for all children, with development of language and communication underpinning every interaction that impressed judges.

Wentworth Nursery School is committed to developing children's language and communication skills through a range of strategies. Communication runs through every activity at the nursery from daily activities to lunchtime, for example, every member of staff knows the Makaton signs for children's favourite foods.

Each child with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) is provided with individualised support, from inclusion in a daily language group or a visual timetable to personalised support. Children with autism are supported through the use of a picture exchange communication system (PECS), with progress monitored regularly.

Parents of all children with SLCN meet every term with support staff, SENCO's and a Speech and Language Therapist to discuss the child's Individual Education Plan and discuss next steps for input at nursery and home. Parents have reported vast changes in their children's communication skills, with some children going from limited or no speech at nursery to being confident and articulate.

Wentworth Nursery School works closely with the Hackney Speech and Language Therapy Services (SALTs). They acknowledge Wentworth as a very forward thinking nursery school, with other SALTs learning from their experiences and sharing them with other early learning settings in Hackney.

Termly 'walk and talk' outings take place, with parents and children walking with the lead teacher to model and promote good communication strategies. Parents find these sessions helpful and it feeds into Wentworth's empowerment of parents to support their child's communication.

The school offers a wide number of ideas and strategies for developing communication on their website under 'Home Learning' and coffee mornings focused on speech and language further reinforce these skills.

All nursery teachers possess a shared responsibility to support all children in their communication development. Parents and Speech and Language Therapists have been impressed with the nursery schools swift intervention of any child identified as having a possible communication need.

