

## Spotlight on Bev Crisp

*Bev Crisp, from Whitby, North Yorkshire, was the winner of the Communication Champion Award at the 2015 Shine a Light Awards. Bev, who works full time as an early-years practitioner and family support worker in Yorkshire, has spent all her spare time over the past year; weekends, evenings and holidays; to focus on the creation of the Building Blocks for Language programme – an intervention programme which supports two year olds who are struggling with some form of SLCN.*

Building Blocks for Language is an eight week programme using simple strategies to escalate parents' knowledge about the importance of early communication. A series of group-based sessions are delivered once a week using materials and activities are supplemented by visits to the family home. The intervention programme is creative but accessible for families who may not in the first instance recognise their child's developmental delay.

Using her passion for working with vulnerable families and her heartfelt commitment to making a difference, the *Building Blocks for Language* programme has seen 35 children go through the programme, 50% of which have been signed off as 'no future action from the SLT team required', the remainder having either been escalated to more intensive support or are continuing to receive wider interventions.

It's not just the children that are reaping the benefits of Bev's programme; parents have been appreciating her knowledge, skills and personable approach in supporting them to gain the skills they need. Bev provides parents with tips and advice on how to be active participants in the programme and how important play and communication is for future skills development, learning and successful peer relationships. With the programme being designed on items that can be found in day-to-day life, the programme can be easily replicated at home.

*Building Blocks for Language* has been such a success that a North Yorkshire speech and language consultant is now replicating the programme across the county, thus ensuring more children and their parents are offered the support they need.

Bev has been awarded the *Communication Champion Award* in recognition of her dedication in not only creating Building Blocks for Language but also her willingness to give time and energy in progressing both child and parent(s) as well as her commitment to the future sustainability of the programme.