



Press Release – For Immediate Release (29.09.15)

## OUTSTANDING PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL HONOURED AT SHINE A LIGHT AWARDS FOR INNOVATIVE PRACTICE AND IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT

The Robert Mellors Primary and Nursery School Foundation Unit in Arnold, Nottingham, has been awarded the *Early Years Setting of the Year* award at a glittering awards ceremony in London, hosted by comedian David Baddiel, for their carefully measured impact on children's development, well-rounded training programme and number of varied, innovative practices.

The **2015 Shine a Light Awards** are a national awards scheme organised by Pearson in partnership with The Communication Trust to celebrate innovative work, inspirational individuals and excellent practice in supporting children and young people's communication development.

Robert Mellors Primary and Nursery School Foundation unit, who work closely with Sure Start, which aims to give children the "best possible start in life" through improvement of childcare, early education, and health and family support, with an emphasis on outreach and community development.

All areas of the school, inside and out, have planned language and vocabulary opportunities, but the unit itself has embraced many different programmes and training, having been part of the *Talk2Learn* pilot study, part of the schools closing the gap agenda, to evaluate the use of targeted interventions and training from a speech and language therapist (SLT).

Staff have also been trained in I CAN's *Talk Boost* initiative, Narrative Groups, Listening and Attention Groups and Signs and Symbols training. Where additional assessments were needed, the school has used The Communication Trust's Speech, Language and Communication Progression Tools to identify the support that children require and all foundation staff have completed training in *Let's Interact*, which focuses on a range of strategies to support children's speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Juliet Clark, Assistant Headteacher and EYFS Lead at Robert Mellors Primary and Nursery School Foundation Unit, said: "We are thrilled to have won the Early Years Setting of the Year award at the 2015 Shine a Light Awards for our work supporting children with their communication.

"Provision for speech, language and communication underpins everything we do. On entry, many children have a speech and language delay – especially for our most disadvantaged children. We recognise the disadvantage that this can bring and we do everything we can to close this gap. Last year, at the start of F2, there was a 50% gap between those Pupil Premium children and not. By the end of the year, this gap had closed.

"We recognise that we do not work alone. We have forged close links with Sure Start and other settings and schools to improve outcomes for children. We support with early identification and working with parents is also a key priority. We have been part of a pilot study called Talk2Learn in

which we have evaluated interventions and worked with an Speech and Language Therapist to improve our practice as a team. Our play-based learning environment for 3-5 year olds is communication friendly. This approach, alongside targeted interventions has meant children make accelerated progress for example 75% of children who made accelerated progress had received the Talk Boost intervention.”

David Baddiel, Host of the 2015 Shine a Light Awards, said: “Because of the important work that the Shine a Light 2015 winners and highly commended finalists have achieved, children and young people’s language and communication development, especially for those with SLCN, has been supported.

“Speech and language problems too often go under the radar, so everyone should not only be congratulated for their work but for bringing this important issue to the attention of others. I would like to say well done to all those shortlisted who have shown true grit and determination to better themselves and others. They are all a true inspiration - keep up the good work.”

Chris Hall, Director of Clinical Assessment at Pearson, says: “Congratulations to Robert Mellors Primary and Nursery School Foundation Unit for winning the *Early Years Setting of the Year* award at the 2015 Shine a Light Awards. Their innovative practices and partnerships have clearly had a significant impact on children’s development. Each year the applications get stronger and more inspiring. We have seen examples of children and young people with SLCN being supported by some truly inspiring individuals, groups and schools like Robert Mellors Primary and Nursery School.

“The Shine a Light Awards, now in their fourth year, continue to grow and we have been delighted to welcome an incredible judging panel who represent the very best of the education and SEN sector. To once again partner with the Communication Trust and celebrate these inspiring people and organisations is a real privilege.”

Anne Fox, Director of The Communication Trust, says: “Congratulations to the winners and highly commended finalists whose work will help inspire and motivate people right across the country. Robert Mellors Primary and Nursery School Foundation unit is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when children and young people with communication difficulties are offered the support they deserve. We’re delighted to have this partnership with Pearson, which allows Shine a Light to be a true celebration of the amazing work up and down the country and for helping the Trust to reach more children and young people and the professionals who work with them.

“The Shine a Light Awards are a key fixture for the speech and language sector as they reflect a range of best practice and innovative work taking place across the country. At a time when early years, health, education and SEN services are going through significant reforms, Shine a Light focuses attention on what can be achieved through expertise, sheer determination and never giving up on children and young people’s potential.”

Liz Bayram, Chief Executive of the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY) and category judge, said: “At PACEY, every day we see how early-years practitioners play a vital role in supporting children’s early communication.

Childminders, pre-schools and nurseries are all on the front line of speech and language provision, helping to identify problems early and ensuring children get the SEND support they need. Shine a Light highlights some of this excellent practice and congratulations to Robert Mellors Primary and Nursery School Foundation Unit for being a worthy winner.”

The full list of winners and highly commended finalists include:

	<b>Winner/s</b>	<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Highly Commended</b>
<b>Pearson Outstanding Achievement Award</b>	Lord David Ramsbotham GCB CBE	N/A	N/A
<b>Early Years Setting of the Year Award</b>	Robert Mellors Primary and Nursery School Foundation Unit, Nottingham	Bambini Childcare Ltd, Bedworth, Warwickshire	N/A
<b>Primary School of the Year</b>	Aerodrome Primary Academy, Croydon	John Ruskin Language Unit, John Ruskin Primary School, Southwark, London	Lark Hall Primary School, Clapham, London
<b>Secondary School/ College of the Year Award</b>	Hampstead School, London	St Marylebone CE Bridge School, Westminster, London	Peacehaven Community School, Peacehaven, East Sussex
<b>Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Award</b>	Woodlands School, Leatherhead, Surrey	N/A	N/A
<b>Community Friendly Award</b>	Talk About Team, Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust, Norwich, Norfolk	N/A	N/A
<b>SLCN Innovation Award</b>	I CAN's Talk about Talk programme, London	County Durham Youth Offending Service, Durham	Talk About Team, Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust, Norwich, Norfolk
<b>Communication Champion Award</b>	Bev Crisp, Whitby & Moors Children Centre, North Yorkshire	Cordula Hastings, Charles Warren Academy, Milton Keynes	
<b>Young Person of the Year</b>	Jonathan Middleditch, Moor House School and College (Suffolk)	James Curtis, London – AVUK	
<b>Communication Commitment School of the Year Award</b>	Holy Trinity Primary School, Halifax, Yorkshire	Longmoor Community Primary School, Liverpool	Fonthill Primary, Bristol

For further information about the Shine a Light winners and highly commended finalists, visit [www.shinealightawards.co.uk](http://www.shinealightawards.co.uk) and follow us on Twitter #SAL2015.

*-Ends-*

#### **For further information**

For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact Laura Smith and Lisa Church at Consilium Communications by contacting [lchurch@consiliumcommunications.co.uk](mailto:lchurch@consiliumcommunications.co.uk) / 07467 945661 or [lsmith@consiliumcommunications.co.uk](mailto:lsmith@consiliumcommunications.co.uk) / 07467 945848.

#### **Notes to editors**

## About the Shine a Light Awards

- The Shine a Light Awards are sponsored and organised by Pearson in partnership with The Communication Trust, a coalition of over 50 organisations dedicated to supporting children and young people's speech, language and communication.
- The Awards are designed to promote and celebrate good practice in speech, language and communication for individuals, groups and settings that work with children and young people, particularly those with SLCN.
- The awards form part of the legacy of the National Year of Communication (*Hello* campaign) and have become a key event in the speech, language and communication community's calendar.
- Nearly 80 applications were received with 10 winners and 11 highly commended finalists picking up coveted awards at a glittering ceremony hosted by comedian, David Baddiel.
- The award categories were Early Years Setting of the Year Award, Primary School of the Year Award, Secondary School/College of the Year Award, Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Award, Community Friendly Award, SLCN Innovation Award, Community Champion Award, Young Person of the Year Award and Communication Commitment School of the Year Award.
- 25 judges were involved in the Shine a Light Awards including Anne Fox, Director of The Communication Trust; Kamini Gadhok, CEO and Derek Munn, Director of Policy and Public Affairs of Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT); Virginia Beardshaw, CEO of I CAN; Norbert Lieckfeldt, Chief Executive of British Stammering Association; Peter Sutcliffe, Editor of SEN Magazine; Jonathan Douglas, Director of National Literacy Trust; Chris Hall, Managing Director at Pearson; Lesley Munro, Education & Speech and Language Therapy Manager at Pearson; Jill Duffy, Managing Director for Schools, Pearson; Hilary Berry, Chair of Cheshire West and Chester Primary Heads' Association; Clare O'Rourke, Specialist Speech, Language and Communication Teacher at Peacehaven Community School and past winner; Michael Beakhouse, Adults & Children's Commissioner at Reading Borough Council and past winner; Shane Dangar, Communication Champion 2013/14; Anna Reeves, Manager of ACE Centre; Malcolm Reeve, Executive Director for SEND & Inclusion at Academies Enterprise Trust; Janet Cooper, Programme Manager of Stoke Speaks Out and Past Shine a Light Award winner; Liz Bayram, Chief Executive of PACEY; Zoë Peden, Co-founder of Insane Logic; Laura Steuart-Fotheringham, Programme Manager for The Communication Trust; Shona Crichton, Professional Advisor for The Communication Trust; Jack Williams, Project Officer for The Communication Trust; Joy Rutter, SEN Governor at Linton Colliery First School; Julie Steele, Specialist Speech and Language HLTA; Helen Fiddler, ESCAL Interim Strategic Lead and Programme Manager at Sheffield City Council; Aidan Baker, Young Person of the Year 2013/14.
- For further information, visit [www.shinealightawards.co.uk](http://www.shinealightawards.co.uk).

## About Pearson

- Pearson is the world's leading learning company, with 40,000 employees in more than 70 countries working to help people of all ages to make measurable progress in their lives through learning.
- Pearson is the world's largest commercial developer and distributor of educational assessments and psychological testing materials with over 90 years history of commitment to researching and developing products to a reliable high standard.
- Pearson is dedicated to the pursuit of professional excellence, leadership, and growth through acquisition, development, publication, and the maintenance of quality assessment tools in order to anticipate and meet the needs of its customers.
- Pearson have sponsored the Shine a Light Awards since their launch in 2011, as part of the *Hello* campaign (National Year of Communication).
- For more information, visit [www.pearsonclinical.co.uk](http://www.pearsonclinical.co.uk) or follow @PsychCorpUK #SAL2015

## About The Communication Trust

- The Communication Trust is a coalition of over 50 leading voluntary sector organisations, which raises awareness, influences policy, promotes best practice among the children's workforce and commissions work from its members.
- The Trust's mission is to ensure that every child and young person is supported to communicate to the very best of their ability.
- The Trust works towards its mission by working in partnership to build, skills, knowledge and confidence in the children's workforce, based on a foundation of good practice, robust evidence and effective policy and legislation.

- For more information about the Trust visit [www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk) or follow @Comm\_nTrust #SAL2015.