

## GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE FROM SBC EARLY YEARS TEAM: EARLY YEARS LEVEL 3 SENCO QUALIFICATION

### WHAT ARE WE MAKING BETTER?

We are upskilling SENCOs in Early Years settings (PVI and maintained nurseries). This will increase their confidence, knowledge and skills in identifying emerging Special Needs and supporting children to make the best possible progress.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We are offering access to an online learning platform with materials and activities which support SENCO's learning. The learning reflections and activities are assessed by Eastern Partnership and learners will achieve a L3 certificate in SEND once the activities have been successfully completed.

To add value to the course, and ensure that SENCO's are able to see their learning in a local context, we are offering 5 "face to face" (although delivered virtually for the first cohort) days of training. During these we link the online materials to the policy and process in Swindon. We also have guest speakers from Health Visiting, SALT, Swindon SEND Families Voice, Portage, Special Tots/Koalas, SENDIASS, Educational Psychology, SEMH team, Swindon Autism Support Service, Visual and hearing Support services, Occupational Therapy and TaMHs.

This multi agency approach will ensure that SENCOs are aware of the support available for Swindon children and how to access it as well as enabling professionals to share key messages about good practice with SENCOs.

EY SENCOs will be confident in identifying emerging SEN at the first possible opportunity. They will be familiar with best practice in supporting children with SEN and will know how they can access support from other agencies when it is appropriate.

Children will be supported effectively. Any additional needs will be identified early and support will be in place at the earliest possible opportunity so that they are able to make the best possible progress.

Quotes taken from an anonymous survey completed by SENCOs at the end of the course:

Q - What will change as a result of the course?

"knowing the support available from other professionals and how to access it. Using the local offer more to seek help and guidance and refer parents to it as well. Involve parents more and focus on coproduction with parents through all of their child's learning and needs."

"I know lots of different specialists that I can use.  
I feel up-to-date with all the latest referral processes.  
I know what is available for families in my local area."

Q - What difference will this make to the children in your setting?

"This training will make a difference to children in the setting as I now have more knowledge around SEND including early identification and making reasonable adjustments so will have more confidence with this in practice."

Q - What difference will this course make to your practice?

It will definitely impact upon my practice as I now have access to knowledge I previously didn't have and understand where to find support and advice for me, colleagues and parent/carers  
80% of SENCOs scored 8/10 or above for the overall course experience

### WHAT WILL THE IMPACT BE/HAS THE IMPACT BEEN?

80% of SENCOs scored 8/10 or above for the impact the course would have on their practice.

80% scored 9/10 or above for the quality of the 'face to face' days and the speakers.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for arranging such a variety and wealth of knowledge to empower the SENCOs in the Early Years Setting. I feel so refreshed and have already have a change, in how I will deliver to my full potential as SENCO."

Cohort 2 of the SENCO level 3 is due to start in October. This will include 60 more SENCOs with sessions during the day for PVI and school nurseries and twilight sessions to accommodate childminders.

### WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN NEXT?

