

Evaluation of Hanen Learning Language and Loving It Information sheet for nurseries

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) are funding the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) to carry out an independent evaluation of Learning Language and Loving It™ - The Hanen Program® for Early Childhood Educators (Hanen LLLI), which is being run in your area by Communicate SLT CIC (Communicate). This is a program designed to help nursery workers help young children to build their language and social skills.

The evaluation will be a randomised control trial. This means that staff at half of the nurseries taking part in the evaluation will attend the Hanen LLLI program and staff at the other nurseries will carry on with their normal teaching and childcare. At the end of the year, NatCen will compare children's language, communication and socio-emotional development across nurseries that do and do not attend the program, to see if there is any difference. This information sheet provides further detail on the purpose of our evaluation and what it entails.

You can find out more about:

- Communicate SLT at www.communicate-slt.org.uk; www.communicate-slt.org.uk/services/eef-llli-trial
- NatCen at www.natcen.ac.uk; <http://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/studies-in-field/evaluation-of-hanen-learning-language-and-loving-it/>
- EEF at <http://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk>

What does the evaluation want to find out?

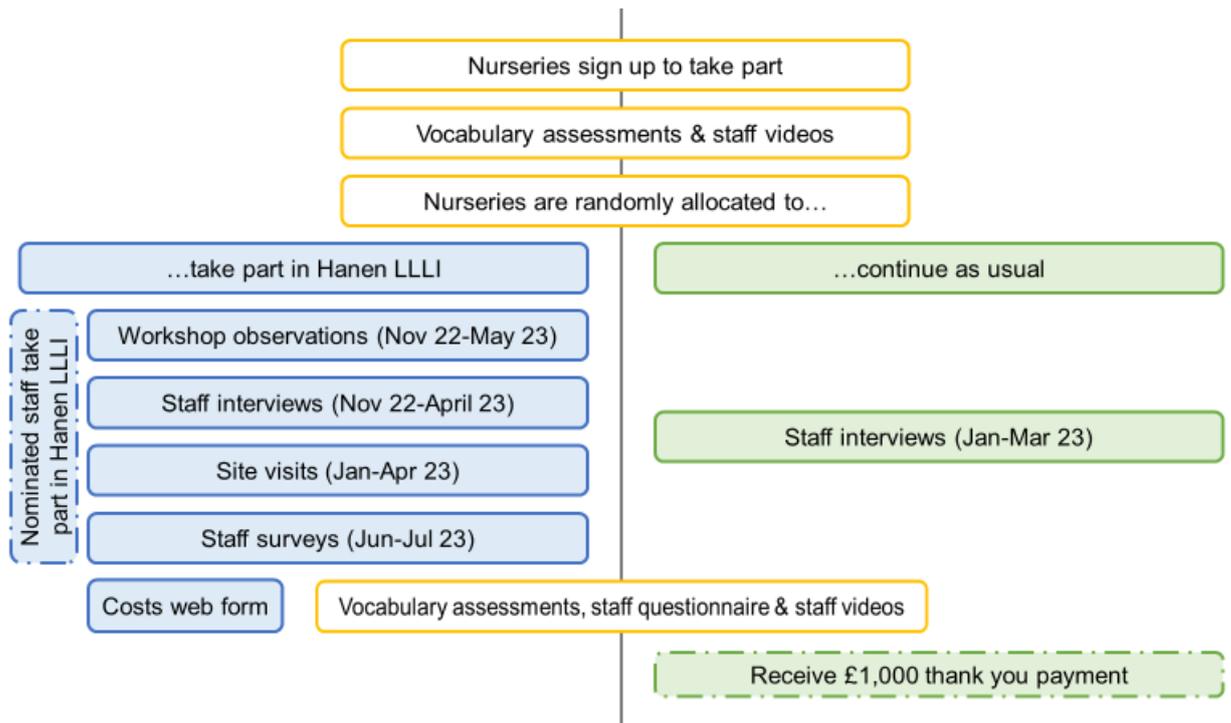
Our evaluation will answer the following key questions:

- What is the impact of Hanen LLLI on the language attainment of 3-4 year-old children?
- Does the impact of Hanen LLLI differ by Early Years Pupil Premium status?
- How is Hanen LLLI delivered, and what are the facilitators and barriers to delivery in maintained nurseries and PVI's?
- What are the perceived benefits of Hanen LLLI for EY practitioners, nurseries and children?
- Is there evidence that Hanen LLLI leads to changes in practitioner practice? How can we better support practitioners towards an effective cascading of knowledge?
- What can be learnt for future delivery of Hanen LLLI?
- What is the per-pupil cost of Hanen LLLI?

What does the evaluation entail?

The evaluation will run from October 2022 to July 2023. Participating nurseries will be randomly selected to either take part in Hanen LLLI or continue providing childcare and teaching as usual.

Evaluation activities for all nurseries are similar, with some key differences (more details overleaf).



All nurseries participating in the evaluation will take part in:

- **Short vocabulary assessments with children.** NatCen will randomly select around 17 children to take part in a short vocabulary assessment at the beginning and end of the year. The assessments:
 - Will be delivered by trained speech and language therapists (SLTs) or nursery staff;
 - Will use two age-appropriate, child-friendly and standardised assessments that are regularly used by SLTs to assess young children’s language development; and
 - Will take 15-30 minutes per child (but we will leave plenty of time for set up and reassurance)
- **Videos of nursery staff (one per setting).** These will be produced by the same member of staff at the beginning and end of the year and will aim to capture changes in their practice.
- **A short questionnaire for nursery staff** that will measure children’s social and emotional development.

If your nursery is randomly selected to take part in Hanen LLLI, evaluation activities will also involve:

- **Observing some of the Hanen LLLI training workshops that nursery staff attend.** NatCen researchers will observe 8 workshops across the course of the program to understand how the training is delivered and the strategies that staff are taught. These observations will take place between November 2022 and May 2023.

- **Conducting interviews with some nurseries.** NatCen will select a sub-group of nurseries to take part in interviews. A senior member of staff will be invited to take part in telephone interviews with a NatCen researcher in November-December 2022 and in March-April 2023. These interviews will explore experiences of Hanen LLLI and perceived impacts.
- **Carrying out site visits with 8 nurseries.** NatCen will select a sub-group of nurseries for a visit in January-April 2023, to:
 - Observe the video feedback sessions that your staff receive as part of Hanen LLLI; and
 - Conduct interviews with a senior manager and one or two trained practitioners about experiences and perceived impacts of Hanen LLLI.
- **A short online survey with nursery staff members** in June-July 2023. This will ask about the strategies they use to interact with children. We won't be assessing individuals' behaviour – the survey is just to help us understand whether taking part in the Hanen LLLI program leads to any changes in practice.
- **A short online survey of nursery staff who have not taken part in Hanen.** This will take place in June-July 2023 and will aim to get a better understanding of the cascading of the programme.
- **A short web form to gather cost information.** At the end of the year, NatCen will circulate a web form to gather information on the costs of taking part in Hanen LLLI which will be used to calculate a per-pupil cost of the programme.

If your nursery is randomly selected to continue providing childcare and teaching as usual, evaluation activities will also involve:

- **Conducting interviews with some nurseries.** NatCen will select a sub-group of nurseries to take part in telephone interviews to find out more about priorities for children's language and communication development in January-March 2023.

If you are randomly selected to continue providing childcare and teaching as usual, your nursery will be given up to a total of £1,000 as a thank you for taking part at the end of the trial (the total amount is conditional on the final vocabulary assessments, staff questionnaire and staff videos being completed).

What does my nursery need to commit to doing?

To be eligible for the trial, your nursery should:

- Ideally, have 17 or more pre-school children (those turning 4 between Sept 2022 – Aug 2023) on roll this Autumn. Settings with 12 or more children may still be able to take part; and
- Be located in one of three Department for Education regional school commissioner regions: 'The North', 'East Midlands and the Humber' or 'West Midlands'.
- Not agree to take part in any other EEF research trial in 2022/23 such as PALs, English Mastery or 5Rs.

By agreeing to take part in the trial, you are committing to taking part in all relevant aspects of the evaluation as described above. All participating nurseries must also agree to helping facilitate our evaluation activities as described below:

- Name a key contact for your nursery who will help the NatCen research team schedule and carry out evaluation tasks;
- Hand out parent information leaflets explaining the project in September 2022;
- In September 2022 provide the nursery postcode and the names, dates of birth, Early Years Pupil Premium Status (EYPP) and home postcode of all of the children registered with your nursery who turn 4 years old in the academic year 2022/23 to NatCen¹. This is so that we can randomly select around 17 children to take part in the assessment;
- Commit to taking part in all stages of the evaluation as specified above, including NatCen's interviews, surveys, site visits, practitioners' videos and the administration of the assessments;
- Be responsive to NatCen's requests for information and the completion of evaluation tasks within agreed timeframes; and
- Commit to participation for the full duration of the evaluation (until July 2023), unless there is a significant reason for not doing so.

If your nursery is randomly selected to take part in Hanen LLLI, you must also:

- Select a **minimum of** half (preferably two-thirds) of your nursery staff, including a senior member of staff (e.g. nursery teacher or room lead), to take part in the Hanen LLLI training program. These staff members should not have taken part in Hanen LLLI before;
- Ensure that these staff attend the entirety of the Hanen LLLI training 2.5 hour workshops (eight fortnightly workshops [some virtual and some in-person] between November 2022 and May 2023);
- Help facilitate scheduling and space for setting staff to meet [sometimes online and sometimes in-person] with Hanen LLLI program leaders to deliver eight video feedback sessions to each participating member of staff;
- Ensure nursery staff have access to, in order to participate in the workshops when they are offered online, an email address and a computer or tablet with high speed internet, a microphone and webcam (at least 1 device per 2 staff members taking part).
- Ensure nursery staff, in order to participate in the individual video feedback sessions, will have onsite access to a video recording device (e.g. tablet or camera with a microphone for sound) and technology (e.g. tablet or computer) for uploading recorded videos to a secure platform. If your nursery does not have an appropriate device to record videos one can be provided.
- Work closely with Communicate who will support implementation of Hanen LLLI.

¹ NatCen will provide a link to a secure system for uploading pupil details. Please **do not** send pupil details via email.

What do NatCen promise to do in return?

The research team at NatCen commit to:

- Providing information about each stage of the evaluation in a timely way;
- Collecting and analysing information from the evaluation to provide an assessment of the effectiveness of Hanen LLLI and how it was delivered to the EEF and Communicate;
- Storing information about your nursery and children securely;
- Ensuring the confidentiality and anonymity of all findings; and
- Being a point of contact for any questions about the evaluation.

And what do Communicate SLT promise to do?

Communicate SLT commit to:

- Providing eight Hanen LLLI workshops and eight video feedback sessions to all participating nurseries randomly allocated to receive the training;
- Refunding early years settings for 50% of their cover costs if they attend the workshops
- Providing early years settings with a tablet or recording device to participate in the video feedback sessions, if a setting doesn't have a device.
- Providing up to a total of £1,000 as a thank you payment to those participating nurseries randomly allocated to continue with teaching and childcare as usual on completion of the evaluation activities (the total amount is conditional on the final vocabulary assessments, staff questionnaire and staff videos being completed); and
- Being a point of contact for any questions about Hanen LLLI and providing appropriate support.

How will our data be used?

All data will be treated with the strictest confidence – your nursery, staff and the children you look after will not be identified in any report arising from the research.

NatCen is the data controller and data processor for this evaluation. Our legal basis for the evaluation is “legitimate interest”. More information can be found in our privacy notice, which you can online at: <https://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/studies-in-field/evaluation-of-hanen-learning-language-and-loving-it/privacy-notice/>

All personal information and any other data held on the project will be securely deleted after one year from project completion in December 2023.

For the purpose of research and archiving, NatCen will share pseudonymised assessment data with the Department for Education, the EEF's archive manager, the Office for National Statistics and potentially other research teams.

At the end of the research project, this data will be submitted to the ONS SRS in the EEF data archive (this is managed by FFT). This will include data only identifiable to the Department for Education and no information will be archived that could be used to directly identify individual pupils (for further information, see EEF's archive privacy

notice). Further matching to National Pupil Database (NPD) and other administrative data may take place during later research.

Who do I contact for more information?

If you have any questions relating to the evaluation, please contact Mansor Rezaian at LLLI@natcen.ac.uk or on 0207 549 7071 .

If you have any questions about Hanen LLLI, please contact Helen Laycock (Project Manager) at LLLI@communicate-slt.org.uk or by calling 01253 462 123.