

Dear parent/carer,

We are writing to let you know that your child's nursery is taking part in an 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 programme designed to help nursery workers to support young children to build their language and social skills.

The evaluation of Hanen LLLI is being funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and carried out by us, the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen). Our evaluation will answer two main questions:

- What is the impact of Hanen LLLI on the language attainment of 3-4 year-olds?
- Does the impact of Hanen LLLI differ by Early Years Pupil Premium status?

We will also address the following questions:

- How is Hanen LLLI delivered, and what are the facilitators and barriers to delivery?
- 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?

The evaluation is 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 programme, to see if there is any difference.

What does the evaluation mean for my child?

NatCen's evaluation will include three key activities that affect your child:

1. **Running vocabulary assessments with children.** Your child may take part in a short, child-friendly vocabulary assessment at the beginning and at the end of the year. The assessments will take between 15-30 minutes. They will be carried out in October 2022 and in June/July 2023 by a qualified Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) or nursery staff. NatCen will select a small group of children at random to be assessed in each nursery. In case your child is not selected, this will not affect the support received within the nursery.
2. **A short questionnaire for nursery staff** that will measure children's social and emotional development at the end of the year.
3. **Videos of nursery staff interacting with children.** Two videos will be produced by the same member of staff, one at the beginning and one end of the year, with the aim to capture changes in nursery staff practice. Your child may be visible in the videos,

however no information about any child is noted. All videos are stored safely by Communicate, are watched only as part of the training and evaluation activities and are deleted when the evaluation ends.

How will my child's information be used?

Your nursery will share the following information about your child with NatCen:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Eligibility for Early Years Pupil Premium
- Postcode

NatCen will randomly select children to take part in the vocabulary assessments in October 2022 and June/July 2023. In June/July 2023, nursery staff will also complete the short questionnaire to measure children's social and emotional wellbeing. We will remove children's names and compare children's results across nurseries that do and do not attend the programme, to see if there is any difference in their language, communication and socio-emotional development. At the beginning and end of the year, nursery staff will share the videos of them interacting with children with qualified SLTs, who will score the staff's practice. No child data from these videos will be used for the evaluation.

At the end of the evaluation, NatCen will share the data collected with the Department for Education, the EEF's archive manager, the Office for National Statistics and potentially other research teams for the purpose of research and archiving. 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 and other administrative data may take place during later research. NatCen will securely delete all personal information about your child no more than one year after the evaluation is finished (by December 2024 at the latest).

For more information about how we use information, please visit our privacy notice: <http://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/studies-in-field/evaluation-of-hanen-learning-language-and-loving-it/privacy-notice/>

What if I don't want my child's information being used in the evaluation?

You have the right to object to your child's information being used in this evaluation. If you object, please tell your child's nursery by Friday, 09 September 2022. After this, you can still choose to withdraw your child from the evaluation by contacting NatCen, using the contact details below.

Who do I contact if I have any questions?

If you would like more information, please get in touch with the NatCen research team at LLLI@natcen.ac.uk or by calling 0808 168 0239.

Best wishes,

Sehaj Bhatti

Project Manager

NatCen - Social Research that works for society