

A language intervention for children with Down syndrome

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Dear All

We have now reached half way in the language intervention for group A and I thought it would be good to give you an update about all that has been achieved.

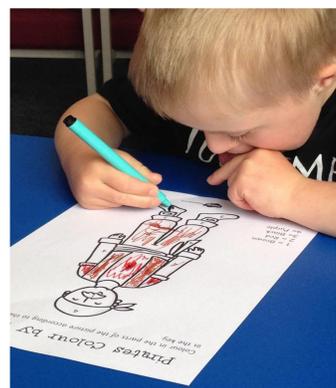
As a reminder the language intervention is focussed on developing the use of the regular past tense. It has been specifically designed to meet the learning profile of children with Down syndrome. The intervention is delivered by trained teaching assistants to children on an individual basis and the children receive 20 minutes of input each day. Schools are supported by phone/email and are visited on a fortnightly basis.

The visits to school have also provided the opportunity to observe the intervention sessions and the positive developments in the children and TAs who are now more familiar with the programme and how to tailor it to their child.

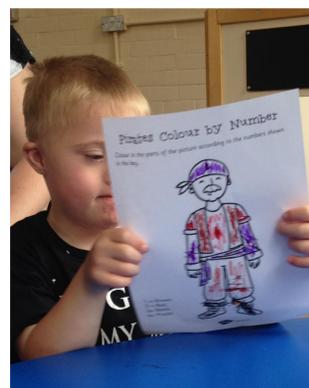
I have been really impressed by the enthusiasm, commitment and skill of the TAs in the project, and am ever-grateful for all their hard work.

What is the purpose of the study?

- Many children with Down syndrome have specific difficulties with expressive language – being able to put sentences together and use grammar accurately
- One of the areas reported to be of specific difficulty for children with Down syndrome is the use of regular past tense for example jumped, splashed.
- This project aims to evaluate whether a language intervention targeting the use of the regular past tense using visual strategies can be effective.



The boy **is** colouring



The boy coloured

How have the children been doing?

I will be visiting all the children in the project throughout April to do full assessments of their expressive language skills. This will allow us to say with confidence whether or not the intervention programme has been successful. All initial reports from TAs are certainly very positive.

The child used the past tense in the big write last week, I was really pleased. TA

His SLT commented that he is using 'is' much more in sentences. TA

You have to add 'ed' because it's finished – easy! Year 3 child

Some reminders:

- Parents – if you have not returned your questionnaire please return it to languageintervention@letsgouk.org or send a hard copy to Unit F1724, 27 Standard Way, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 8XJ. If you would like me to resend a copy please email me and let me know.
- Training for group 2 TAs will happen on either Friday 31st March 2017 in Wickham or Tuesday 25th April 2017 in Hartley Wintney. If you have not already booked onto one of the training days please let me know which date/venue you will be attending.
- I will be contacting schools in the next couple of weeks to arrange dates to visit schools to assess all the children in April 2017.
- Here's a reminder of the timetable for the project:

