

A language intervention for children with Down syndrome

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Dear All

We are now nearing the end of the intervention block for Group A and schools have been working hard to complete all the intervention sessions. All of the children recruited last term were randomly allocated to one of two groups. The second group will start work after Easter so it seemed a good time to give you an update on how the intervention is progressing.

The language intervention is focussed on developing the use of the regular past tense and it has been designed to use the visual learning strengths of children with Down syndrome. The intervention is delivered over a 10 week period by teaching assistants in school. All the teaching assistants in Group A received training in January and Group B will receive training after Easter. All children will be assessed on the language measures either just before or after the Easter holidays and then Group B will start work on the intervention in the summer term.

Thank you to all those in Group A who have been working tirelessly and I am really pleased with the work the children have produced.

The 10 week intervention – an overview of the weekly structure



Monday

4 new verbs are introduced weekly
Story Activity

Tuesday

Action activity – video actions
Watch the videos and write up

Wednesday

Look back activity – review Tuesday
Retelling the past activity

Thursday

Time word activity
Play verb games

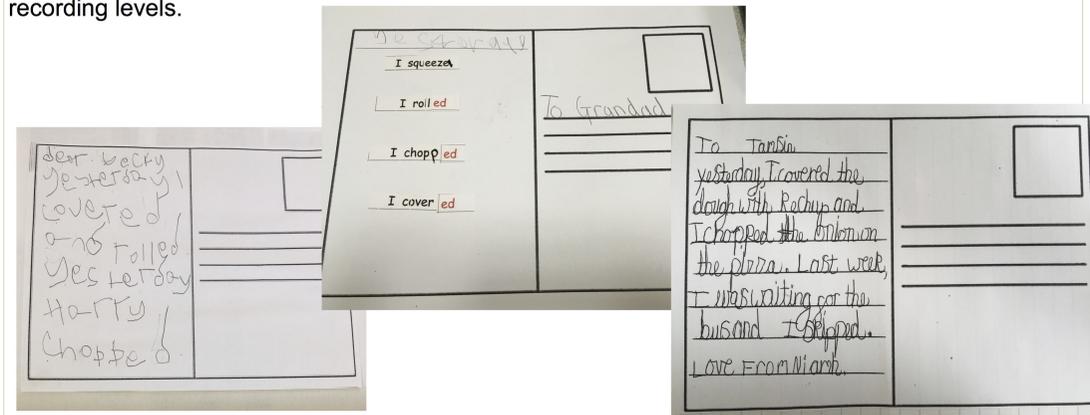
Friday

Consolidation session
Complete record book



Intervention visits

Throughout the 10 week intervention block the children are visited regularly by Becky. These visits are to support schools to provide the intervention sessions. These visits include observation of the intervention sessions, some additional activities with Becky and discussion regarding adapting the intervention to the individual's needs and when to move on. All of the children are aged 7-11 years but are of course very different. Activities are designed to be adapted to a variety of language and recording levels.



The teaching assistants have been fantastic at ensuring all of the children are appropriately supported and challenged to develop at the child's individual speed.

Some reminders:

- Parents – if you have not returned your questionnaire please return it to rbaxter@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 Friday 20th April 2018 in Fleet. We are also arranging a smaller south Hampshire date for those further away. If you have not already booked onto the training please let me know the name of the person/persons who 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 either the week before or the week after Easter – please look out for these dates.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the intervention please email Becky Baxter rbaxter@letsgouk.org or telephone 07712 400966