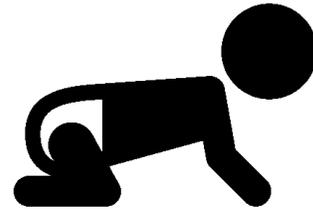




VOICE



AGENCY



WELLBEING



Parents as Communication Partners

Lead • Engage • Create • Empower

Workshop Overview

Welcome and introductions



Ice-breaker: ***What makes a good communication partnership?***

Reflections on Leicester SLC Project: child, family, community, system

What are the ***possibilities*** for parents as communication partners.....?



Opportunities and challenges – questions in chat, Q&A



Facilitators

Monica Hingorani
Senior Project Manager
Leicester City Council

Monica.Hingorani@leicester.gov.uk



Richard Jaramba
Chair

rjaramba@lcpcf.net

[Leicester City Parent Carer Forum](#)

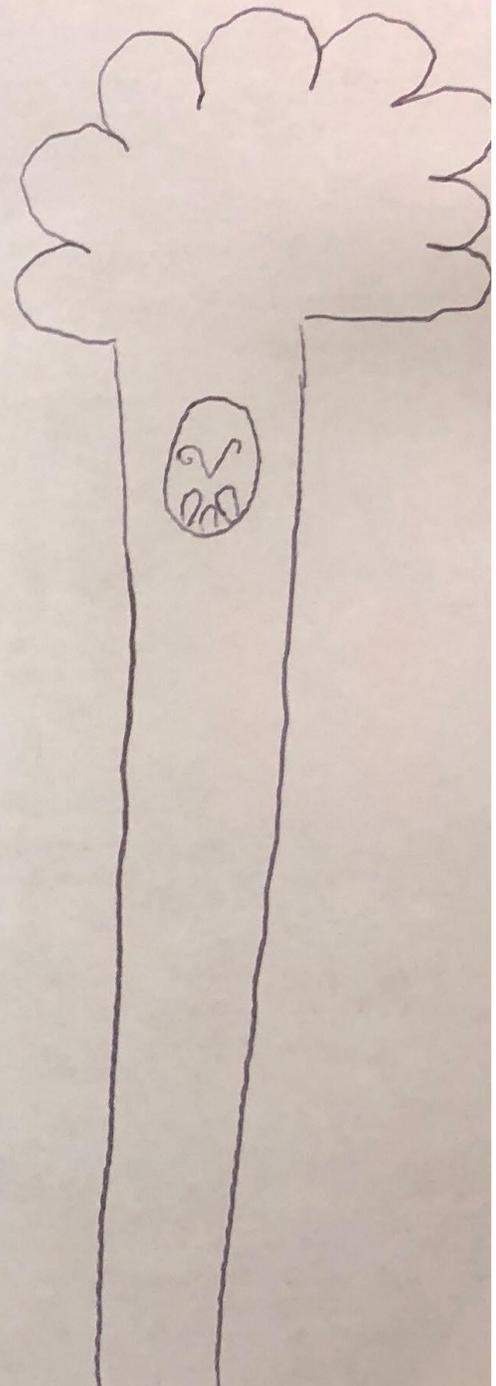
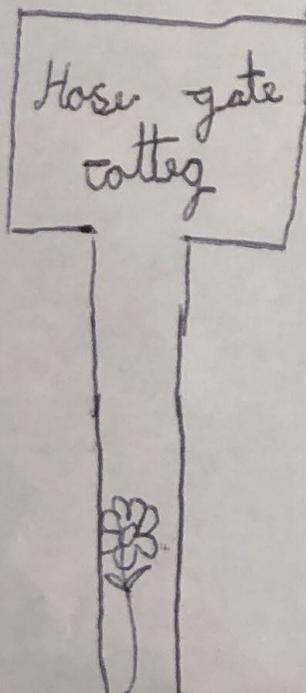


Sally Etheridge
Director and Programme
Lead

sallymammamas@gmail.com

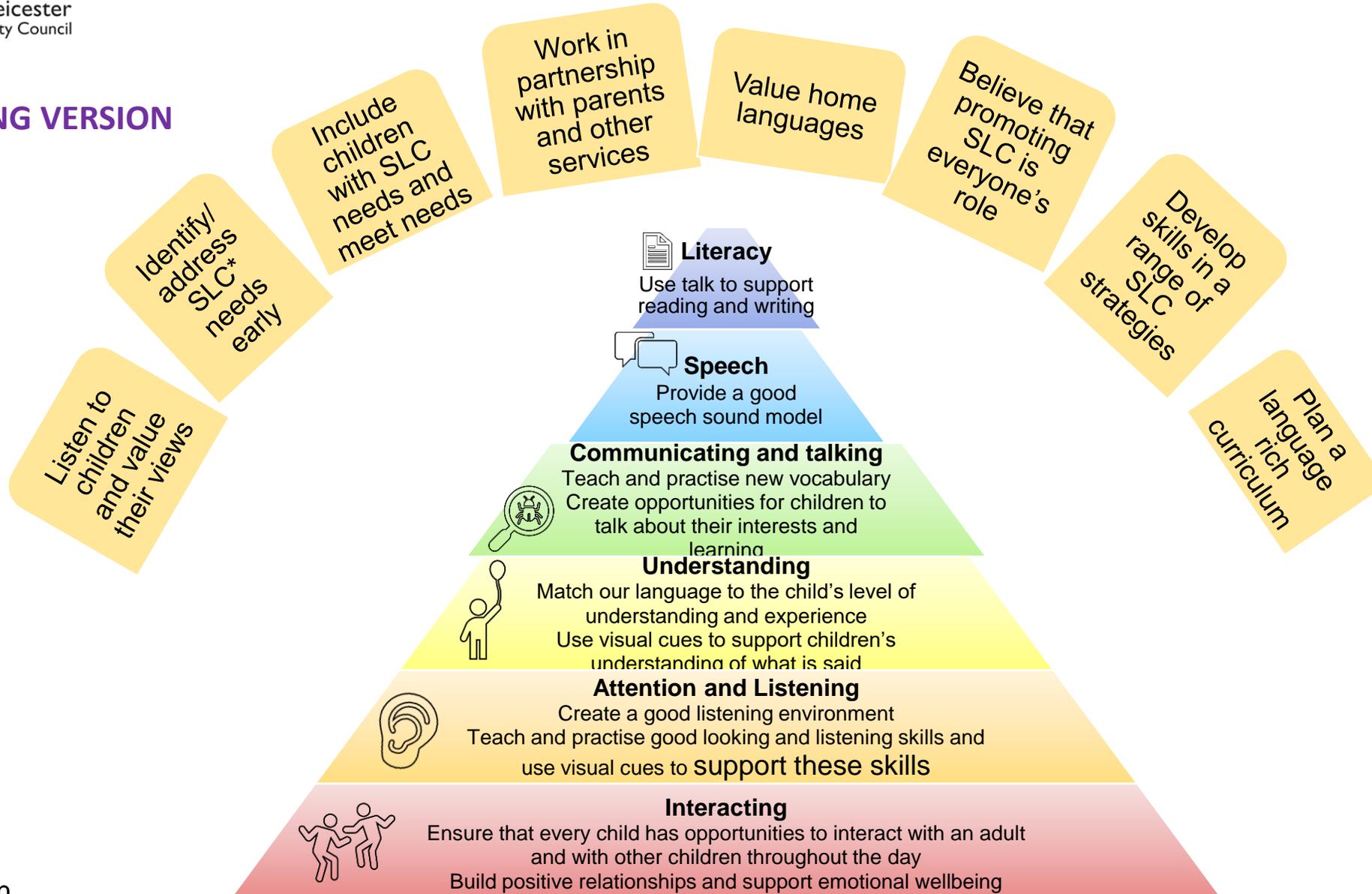
[Leicester Mammamas](#)

What makes a good communication partnership?



In our communication inclusive space we:

DRAFT: WORKING VERSION



*SLC
Speech,
Language and
Communication

School Readiness Framework, Unicef 2012

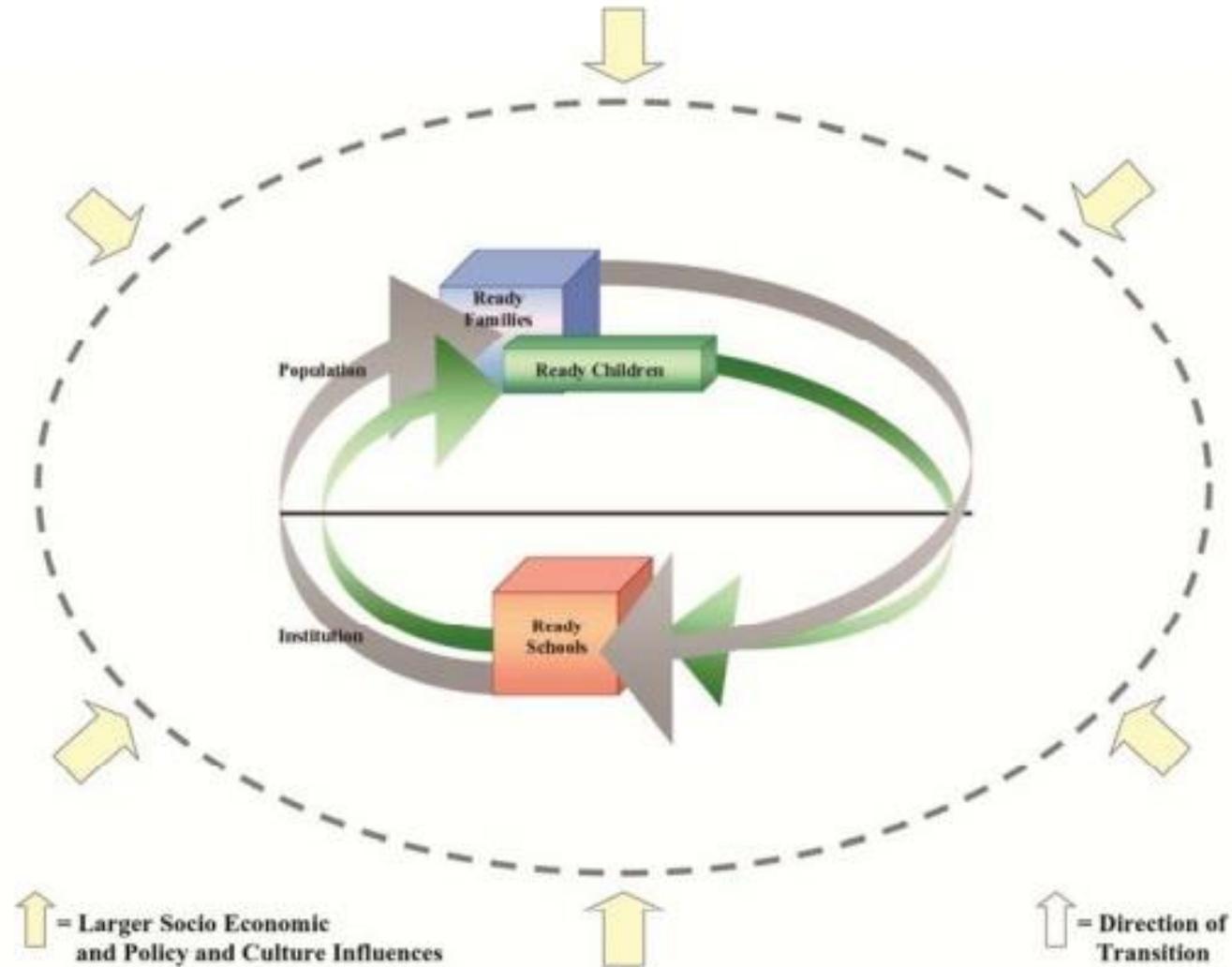
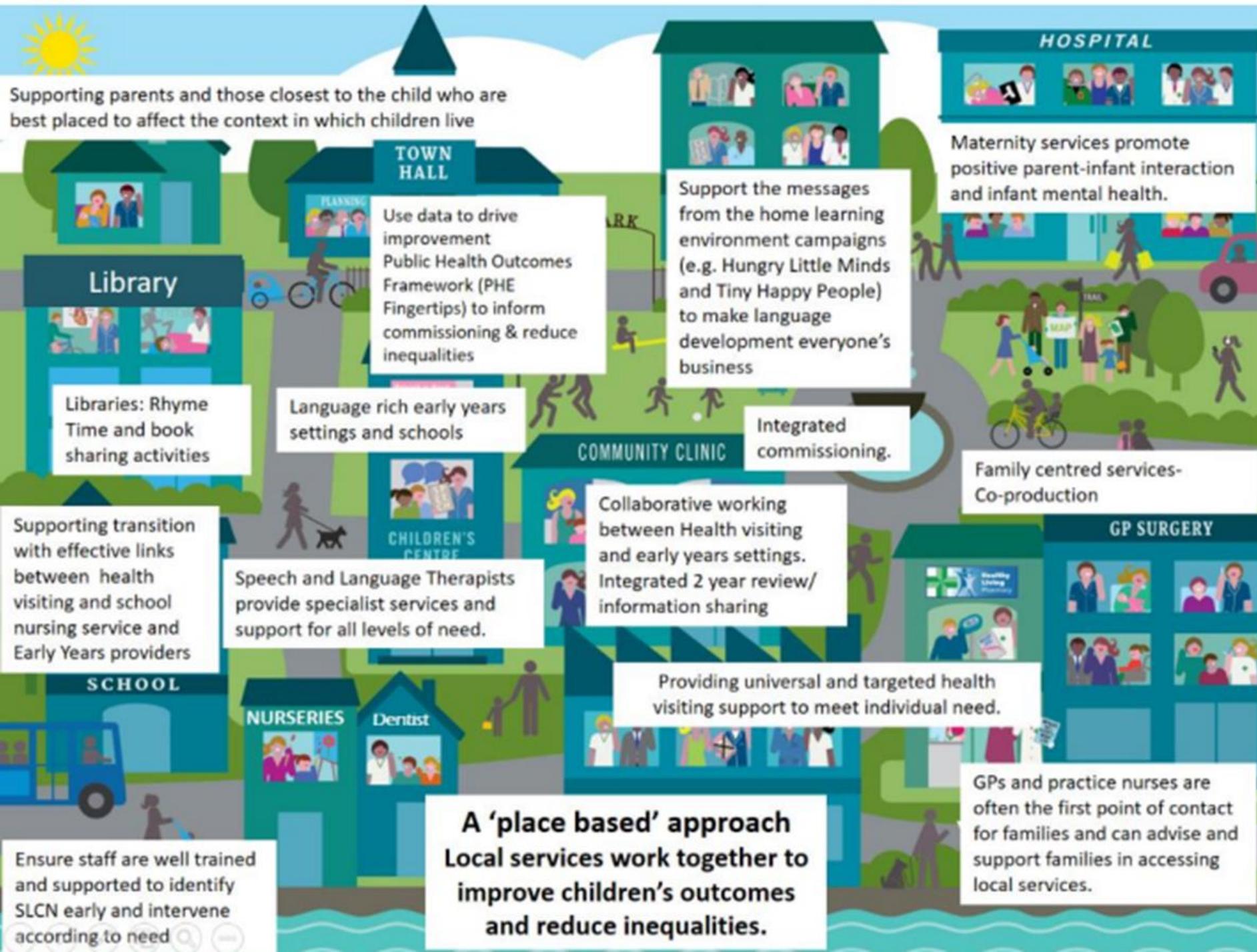


Figure 1: Building Competency/Capacity for Transition to School

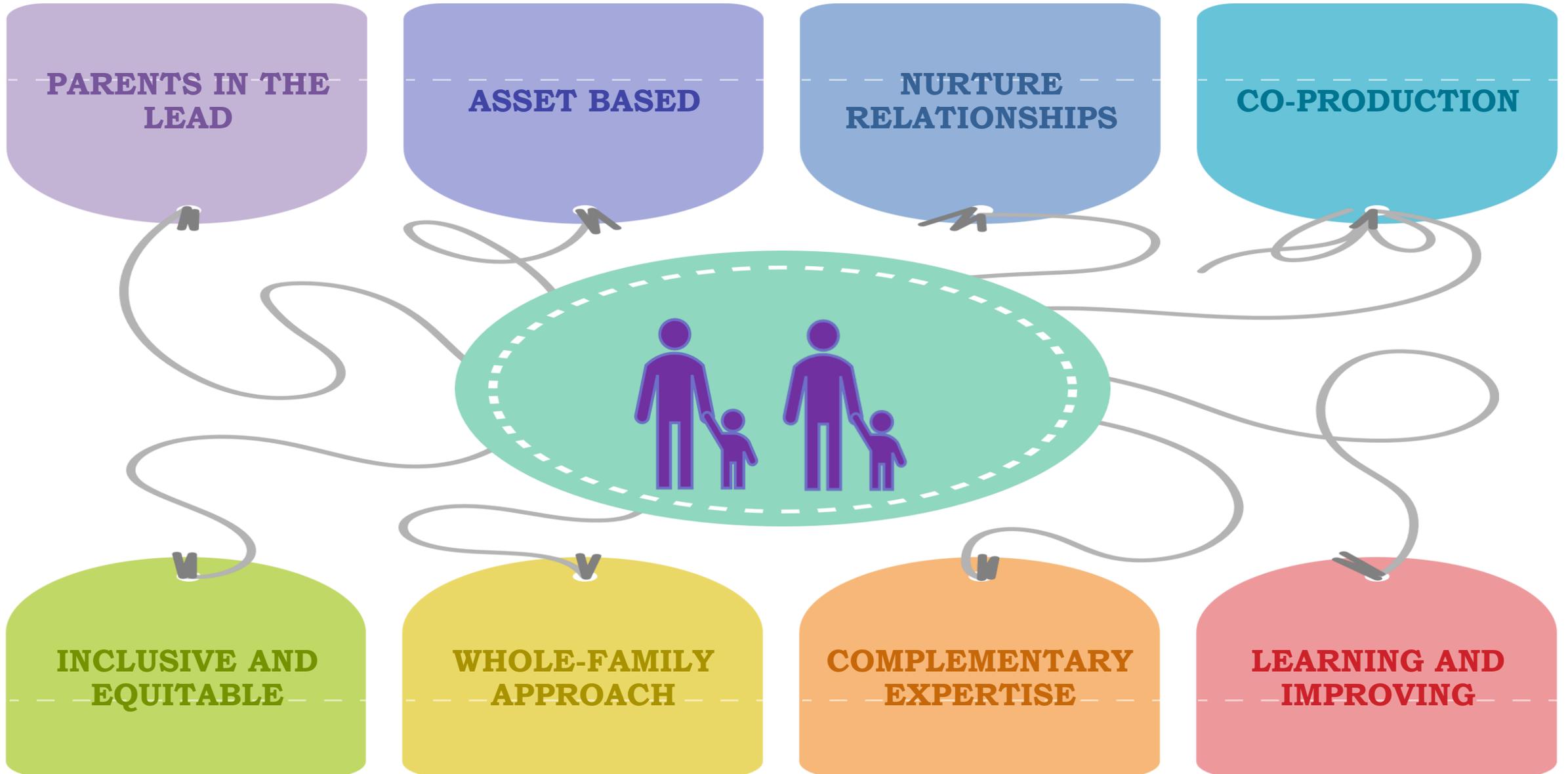


A whole system approach for the Best Start in SLC

Improving SLC support and tackling the root causes of early language delay: poverty and discrimination.

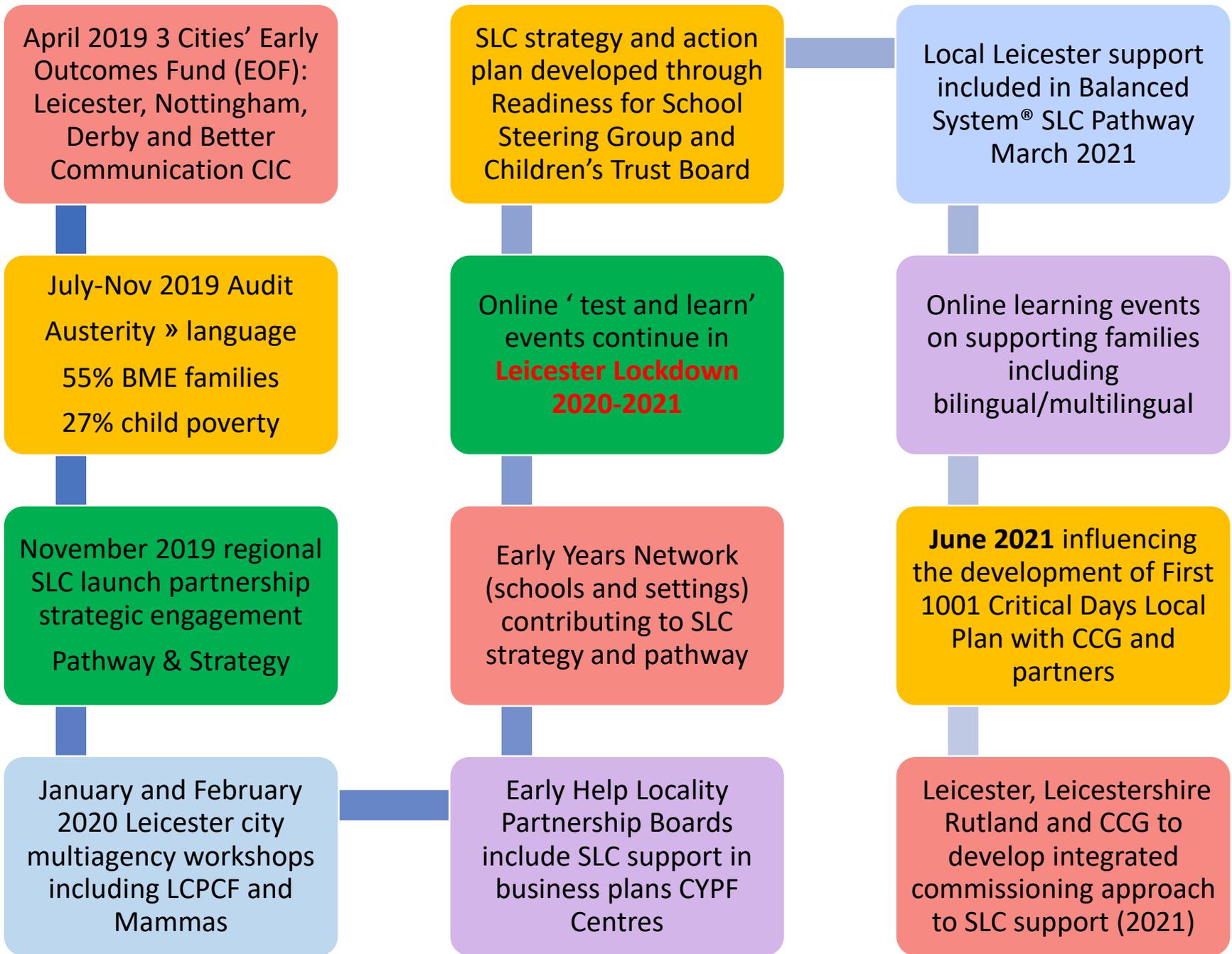
[Best start in speech, language and communication: Guidance to support local commissioners and service leads \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/guidance-to-support-local-commissioners-and-service-leads)

Parents Helping Parents (nesta, 2020)

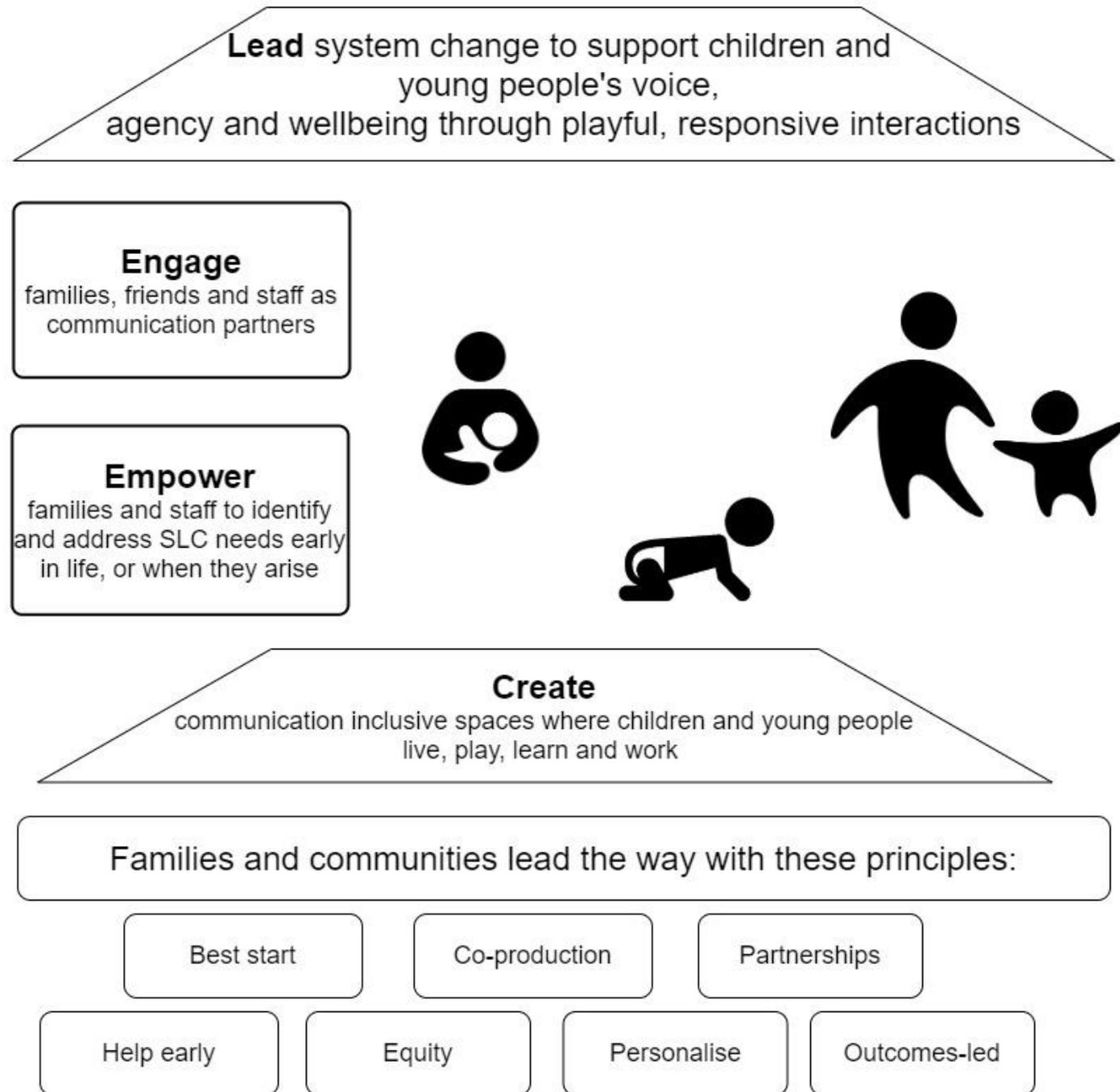




SLC Project Journey 2019-2021



SLC Strategy Priority themes

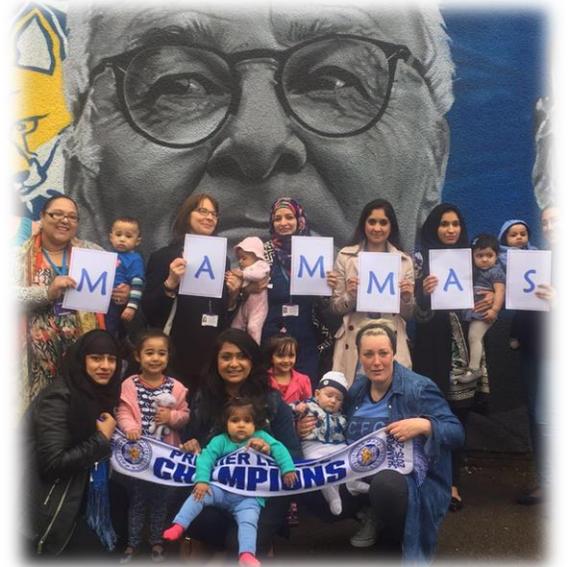


Mammas



VCSE Health and Wellbeing Fund
Starting Well 2020-2023





Support during lockdown – for babies’ and for mums’ health & well-being

“I am grateful to Mammias group from the deepest core of my heartthe Mammias group and other mummies advices has made very strong and confident....thanks a lot to the entire group...”

“Hi I think having this support does go hand in hand with helping as well. Knowing that you’re not alone with issues can be a massive factor in not allowing depression to rear its head. Well for me it has anyways. Suffering atm due to lockdown.. I need to be out and about to keep my mind in a better state...”

“I feel more confident that I have someone who can help me And next baby I know I won’t struggle as much because I have your number to ask for advice, Thank you 🥰👶”

“Thank you for being so supportive! I'm the first person in my family to breastfeed so you can imagine the lack of support there! 😊”

“Thank you so much. Breastfeeding is not always easy but we are very lucky in Leicester to have such a supportive team.”

The importance of well-supported breastfeeding



“I wanted to breastfeed her from the beginning. I always wanted to, I always had this thing, I wanted to breastfeed my baby, because I wanted to feel that connection.

And yes, breastfeeding does make me feel really close.

Like the thought she depends on me, and I am her source of food and love.... It did numb the pain. It does help with the stress. When I breastfeed, I feel a lot more happier, I just sit there, talk with her, laugh with her, make her smile.

I’ve learnt now it does help. Before I didn’t know.”

Learning and Speech Language & Communication

- Linking with Monica Hingorani and SLC Strategy
- Talking to your baby
- Talent25
- Thursday Morning Baby Club – baby development, making & doing stuff!
- Sensory Baby sessions, linking with Schemas, singing, stories



Context for SLC links

- Mammias connects with around 600 – 700 mothers and families via our social media and online groups
- Approximately 85% are of BAME background, majority S Asian
- A further 10% probably have at least one parent who is from BME background, and therefore has close family ties to other countries and cultures
- Questions come up frequently relating to speech and language, either following a Health Visitor Development Check, or because parents felt their child was not showing the level of speech families expected
- Parents expressed concern that this was due to the child hearing several languages at home, and worried that this was ‘holding them back’

♥ Bringing up bilingual babies ♥

**A special Mammias session,
with Monica Hingorani -
Project Lead for Leicester City
Council's Speech, Language
and Communication**

Friday 5th March

1.30 – 2.45pm on Zoom

Please text Sally to register



Immediate response!

Eighteen different languages in all - Most children were exposed to several languages

Reasons for wanting their child to speak another language included –

- Being able to converse with family members in other countries on Facetime, knowing that non-verbal communication was harder than when in person
- Continuing the link with the culture and country of birth of the parents
- Valuing the mother tongue in its own right
- Respect for grandparents
- Introducing children to other languages that the parents enjoy speaking, and feel connected to



Anxieties about getting it wrong – the fear of messing up

Concerns about using other languages at home included –

- Knowing when and how to use which language: mother tongue or English?
- Wanting strategies to be able to use languages at home; feeling you never did it 'right'
- Conflicting ideas from different people – father, extended family, health visitor, teachers. The mum felt stuck in the middle, unsure which way to turn and feeling she would be to blame for getting it wrong
- Worries about using language 'correctly' – using the right grammatical structures and pronunciation, when you may not feel you did this yourself
- Worries about 'holding back' your child, especially if both parents had different languages to English, and grandparents may speak yet another language. This may be exacerbated if two year assessments suggested the child's speech was not at the expected level, or if nursery staff spoke to the mother about her child's speech and development.
- Not knowing where to find resources to find out more, or for example reading books that were in the home language – finding examples of written language
- Getting a referral, or even knowing what to do, if you feared your child may need extra help, or was still not speaking as expected

Following the workshop - Changes participants decided to make



- Build language and play into the routine and activities with their child
- Reflect on which languages to use and how to use them
- Speak mainly in their mother tongue to their child, knowing that they will learn English
- Worry less
- Sing more songs and nursery rhymes
- Look out books in the home language at the library

Next steps

- Look at the planned actions within the strategy and how Mamas and other partners within the SLC strategy can work together
- Contribute to national workshop on June 15th
- Plan further parents' workshops
- Deliver consistent messages to parents at all our activities about using language
- Link with other parent organisations in other cities with high numbers of speakers of other languages, e.g. HappyMOMents in Dewsbury
- Raise awareness of the desire of parents to bring up children who speak multiple languages confidently, value different cultures and especially are encouraged to value their own culture, ethnicity and motherland