Talking Two's!

3rd November 2026
09.30am – 10.30am

Laurie Johnson (Early Years Education Improvement and Learning Coordinator)

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Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Updates
3. Parental engagement and the home learning environment
4. CPD opportunities
5. Q&A
6. Date of next meeting



Updates:

National and Local Headlines - Good Level of Development:

	2024/2025	2025/2026
Overall	72.3% of children met the expected level in all five domains.	72.4% of children met the expected level in all five domains.
FSM (EYPP) –	54.8%	45%
Non-FSM-	76.4%	76.5%
Girls	78.6%	79.7%
Boys	66.3%	65.5%

Parental Engagement – creating a culture for home learning

Why Parent Engagement Matters

- Children thrive when home and setting work together
- Improves language, wellbeing and learning outcomes
- Creates consistency and trust
- Strengthens early identification and support



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Understanding Families

- Start with strengths
- Be culturally responsive
- Recognise barriers to engagement
- Offer flexible communication methods



Everyday engagement tactics

- Warm welcomes and handovers
- Share observations and next steps
- Use photos and learning journals
- Celebrate achievements regularly





Supporting talking twos – in the home

- Model language-rich interactions
- Share conversation prompts
- Promote songs, stories and rhyme
- Encourage listening and turn-taking games



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High-impact parent engagement ideas

- Stay-and-play sessions
- Home learning packs
- Family story sacks
- Parent workshops
- Community events



Activity 1: Parent engagement audit

Which families engage regularly?
Which families engage less frequently?
What barriers might they face?
What is one thing we could change?

Traffic light reflection

- Families we engage well
- Families we sometimes struggle to reach
- Families who rarely engage

Activity 2: Talking twos at home – The challenges

- Design a simple home learning idea
- Low or no cost
- Supports communication and language
- Fits into everyday family routines

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Reflective Questions

- Who is not engaging and why?
- How do we gather parent voice?
- Are communication methods accessible?
- If you could improve one aspect tomorrow, what would it be?

Commitments to Action

We will Start...	We will Stop...	We will Continue...

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Action Planning

Identify 2–3 practical changes your setting will implement over the next term.

Additional Reading

- Mathers, S., Sylva, K. & Joshi, H. (2007) *Quality of Childcare and Home Learning Environment*
- Siraj-Blatchford, I. et al. (2008) *The Role of the Home Learning Environment*
- Nutbrown, C. (2012) *Foundations for Quality*
- Baby and toddler screen time guidance - Best Start in Life
- Nursery World - Call to support campaign to provide books for disadvantaged children - Nursery World

CPD opportunities

Training Brochure 26/27

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Cluster meeting - Talking Two's

Date:

Times:



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Copies of these slides can be found at:

Early Years CPD | Shropshire Learning Gateway