Flying Start – Childcare and Speech and Language Impact Case Study

**Introduction**

Flying Start Childcare in Swansea has traditionally been based in schools, providing high quality childcare and an integrated support for parents/carers and children. This approach has enabled the childcare staff, Flying start Health Visitors and speech teams to have eyes on the child to support any developmental needs. This early identification and intervention approach supports the ambitions of Flying Start as defined in Welsh Government guidance.

The Dechrau Disglair setting provides Welsh Flying Start Childcare provision in Swansea and plays a significant part in supporting the speech and communication needs of the children that attend.

**How do we know this works?**

The setting received an unsolicited letter from a grandparent highlighting the good work that had been undertaken. The letter described how

“very quickly the staff identified there were problems and began monitoring both children”

The staff put procedures in place to support the children’s speech progress, and shared information with the grandparents, in order to support the children’s communication needs outside the setting.

The immediate impact of this child centered approach was recognised by the grandparents;

“Flying Start helped the children learn to recognise and inform us of their feelings. That was a first for us and a huge step forward in helping XXXXXX begin to regulate some of her volatile emotions, and to help us understand what the issue was.”

The impact of supporting children with their speech development is well known and is a core aim of the Flying Start programme, in this instance the partnership work undertaken also helped to initiate support with some of the behavioural issues the family were experiencing.

The Grandparents also credit the childcare setting with enabling them to access the support they needed after the children had left the setting.