

Testimonies for Somerset Early Help Advisory Service October 2024

Sam Wade Cheddar First School (Pre School manage)

“We have been supported by Sharon since we required some support with children who have EAL Sharon promptly arranged to visit us in person which was amazing to have someone visit the setting in person and meet face to face. I was so inspired by all the resources Somerset Early Years alliance could supply through their website not just EAL but, Early Help and a few other areas with so much information to not only support settings but practitioners CPD and signposting for our families. I recently attended their early help training and it was one of the best I have done in a very long time, with lots of information and meeting other practitioners across the sector.

I cannot praise Somerset Early Years Alliance team enough. They are an amazing team who go above and beyond to offer support and if you require something that you cannot find on their website, do ask they may well find it for you.”

Caroline Gordge St George’s Pre School-Manager

“As a provider of early years education in Somerset, St George's Pre School-Taunton has had links with Sharon Bond and the team that forms

The Early Years Alliance 'Somerset Early Help Advisory Service' for over 10 years. I cannot express enough how invaluable this service has been to us.

Their expertise and knowledge in supporting the whole staff team has allowed us to offer the best possible service for children and families with English as an Additional Language.

Their bespoke service is unique, addressing our specific needs as a setting which typically supports 80-90% of children with English as an Additional Language. Their advice, training, practical guidance, materials and resources has equipped the staff team with the skills and the confidence to support our diverse community effectively.

Their commitment, dedication and support to ensure we are doing our very best to provide an inclusive environment for our children and families is very much appreciated.

I would definitely recommend The Early Years Alliance to any early years providers looking to enhance their practice and support of children and families with EAL in Somerset, they certainly have made a significant difference to ours, for which we are extremely grateful.”

Sarah Fennelly Early Years Academy Manager Yeovil

“Being a member of the Early Years Alliance and working closely with Lousie has been a positive and beneficial experience. We have had individual support visits offering a wealth of knowledge, expertise and even resources to borrow to support the team with EAL. This has had a positive impact on how we support children and their families with EAL, it has also widened our team's knowledge.

As part of our first team day, we asked EYA (Lousie) if she could lead a training session on Early Help and EAL, this was well received by the team. They enjoyed the opportunity to play with the resources and use the 'talking pen' allowing time for questions and professional discussion. Following the training our team felt confident using the resources in the nursery environment and were ready to explore confidently with the children in the setting.

I have also been fortunate to work alongside Louise in a networking capacity supporting the voice of Early Years within our local community. We have worked together with our local Connect Somerset Champions to inform network events, working alongside other agencies to support knowledge and understanding of what support is available.”

Natasha Rand Yeovil area Champion

“Early Years Alliance has been an integral part of assisting and supporting Yeovil Art Space in our role as the Connect Somerset champion for connecting education, health and the voluntary sector, in Yeovil, to ensure the Early Years community is informed and part of the conversations for early help to support families and communities.”