

# How will our aims be achieved?

- **Basic Awareness Training** – increase awareness of speech, language and communication for everyone who has any responsibility for a child. Whether that is a parent/carer, grandparent or other family members, childminder or staff member in an organisation that cares for children.
- **Key Messages** – are delivered every month through Facebook/Twitter/Instagram as guidance to parents to support their child's communication development. Resource Packs are also available.



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Act Early

Support Parents

Achieve More



# Purpose

## The HKT initiative hopes to

- Help children and young people be the best they can
- Make children's development in speech, language and communication everyone's responsibility
- Make a difference to children's lives together

# Priorities

1. Everyone working together to prioritise children's speech, language and communication development
2. Raise awareness of why we need to do this
3. Highlight where support can be given to improve a child's speech, language and communication development

## Vision:

Everyone in our community working together to help kids talk.

# Speech and Language

- Speech and language delay is the most common difficulty experienced by preschool children
- This impacts their communication, skills, education, social skills, emotional development and life chances.
- A child's vocabulary skills at age 5 are a strong predictor of their employment status at age 34. Resolving speech and language difficulties by age 6 results in a better outcome for the child.
- Without the right type of support, 1 out of 3 children with speech, language and communication needs will have mental health problems later in life.



# Background/ Evidence

- In some of the most disadvantaged communities in Northern Ireland over 40% of children are starting pre-school with language delay or difficulty
- Children with speech, language and communication needs are at a high risk of difficulties with reading, writing and spelling
- 60% of young offenders have speech, language and communication difficulties

**Language Problem**  
in Foundation Stage (4-6yrs)

**Literacy Problem**  
in Key Stage 1 (6-8yrs)

**Behaviour Problem**  
in Key Stage 2 (8-11yrs)