

ELIZABETH JARMAN



CREATING OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING

Press Release

External Evaluation Communication Friendly Spaces™ Bags for Families by Dr Roland Marden, R M Insight

“CFS™ Bags for Families has achieved notable successes in helping to create supportive conditions for the development of children’s communication skills.”

CFS™ Bags for Families was launched in January 2009 by ELIZABETH JARMAN®. The idea was to provide a resource that would enable practitioners and teachers to support families in adopting the CFS™ principles in the home environment. It was intended that the resources and support offered by the programme would create a ‘bridge’ between setting and the home. Parents/carers would become more aware of the impact of the home environment for their child’s social development, begin to introduce CFS™ into the home, and generally become more engaged with their children, especially supporting their speaking and listening skills. By July 2010 the programme had distributed nearly 8,000 bags in 65 local authorities across England and Wales.

“The evaluation found that the CFS™ Bags for Families programme performs strongly in helping to improve the learning environment for children and in facilitating development of speech and language skills. Evidence suggests that the programme works particularly well in strengthening the relationship between early years settings and families in supporting the child’s social development. Most parents/carers participating in the programme were reported as improving communication with the practitioner and becoming more engaged with their child’s development.”

- 64% of families improved in the frequency of conversations with setting practitioner
- 77% of families improved the quality of communication with setting practitioner

Qualitative feedback suggested that the programme is making an important contribution to:

- triggering communication with parents/carers
- encouraging more open communication with parents/carers
- establishing more informative conversations with parents/carers about the child’s communications skills
- stimulating parent/carer engagement with development of child’s communication skills

To read the full evaluation report and for more information about CFS™ Bags for Families see www.elizabethjarmanltd.co.uk

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