Boost the early language outcomes of the children on your caseload

About this training

SPARK Communication™ is an intensive 2-day Hanen training designed specifically for professionals who work with young children with language delays and their families.

Participants learn research-based responsive interaction strategies — drawn from Hanen’s It Takes Two to Talk® guidebook and program — that are known to accelerate children’s early language development. They also learn how to coach parents to apply these strategies during everyday interactions with their child to make language learning a natural, ongoing process for the child.

What SPARK Communication offers

Based on current research and best practice, SPARK Communication offers the framework early (childhood) intervention providers need to effectively support children’s early communication development by making parents a central part of the intervention process. By taking this training, providers learn:

1. The four early communication stages and styles, and how the various interactive roles parents play affect their child’s opportunities to interact and learn
2. The evidence-based interaction and language-building strategies that accelerate early communication development
3. A coaching framework for involving and teaching parents so they play a key role in facilitating their child’s early communication development
4. A concrete plan for applying the SPARK coaching framework and interaction strategies with the families on their caseload
5. A set of outstanding resources to support their daily work with families (valued at $109 USD)
6. A common language and approach to use with other members of multidisciplinary teams in order to provide consistent and cohesive service to each family

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Training components

The SPARK Communication training includes two full days of experiential, hands-on group training that:

- familiarizes providers with the responsive strategies that have been shown to accelerate children's communication development;
- describes how to identify primary strategies for each child and family based on the child's stage and style of communication development and the parents' style of interaction;
- addresses the explicit teaching and coaching methods required to help parents apply responsive strategies in order to facilitate their child's communication development; and
- involves participants' preparing an action plan to be implemented with the identified family.

Training resources

Each participant receives the It Takes Two to Talk® guidebook and companion DVD – world-renowned resources for supporting families of children with language delays. Participants also receive a comprehensive set of handouts to structure and plan their work with families.

Other SPARK Communication highlights

- Developed and offered by The Hanen Centre, a respected authority in family-centered early language intervention since 1975
- Accommodates up to 30 participants so whole teams can be trained
- Flexible and convenient – The Hanen instructor travels to a chosen venue to offer the training at a convenient place and time

Who SPARK Communication is for

SPARK Communication is most valuable to those working within multi-disciplinary, trans-disciplinary and Key Worker models to support young children with language and/or developmental delays. These professionals include:

- Early (childhood) intervention providers
- Early childhood special educators
- Special education teachers
- Early intervention administrators
- Occupational therapists
- Physical therapists
- Social workers/Family therapists
- Psychologists
- Direct care staff/Therapy assistants
- Nurses/Medical staff

What professionals who attended this training have said...

“The SPARK training has invigorated me and I am now inspired to use the 4 step coaching framework to better serve the families I work with.”

“This training has increased my confidence in working collaboratively with parents so this becomes a real partnership.”

“I realize that I don’t give parents enough opportunity to practice using the strategies with their children. Now I have the structure to make this part of my everyday work with families.”

“The strategies I learned have made it easier for me to connect with children who are difficult to reach.”

Interested in joining the SPARK community?

Contact our Training Coordinator, Tom Khan, at workshophosting@hanen.org or visit www.hanen.org/SPARK for more information.

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