



## Further Evidence: Parent Implemented Intervention is Best Practice

**By Brittany Da Silva**

***Speech-Language Pathologist & Clinical Program Assistant, The Hanen Centre***

Have you ever tried to convince someone who is unfamiliar with the Hanen philosophy that parent- implemented early language intervention is in the child and family's best interest?

As Hanen SLPs, we know that parent implemented intervention is the gold standard but sometimes it can be difficult to convince others of this if they are used to a direct therapy model of service delivery. In addition, parents may be expecting direct therapy, insurance companies may not cover parent programs and administrators may feel that group programs are too time consuming for their clinicians. We can get stakeholders on board by first listening to their perspectives and then offering proof to support our position. [A recent article](#) by Shari DeVeney and Jessica Hagman provides compelling evidence that we should be providing parent training (2016).

DeVeney and Hagman did a literature review examining outcomes for late talkers who received parent implemented intervention compared to clinician implemented intervention. The children in the studies had delayed expressive language skills, not secondary to developmental disabilities. Eight articles met their inclusion criteria, including the 1996 and 1997 articles on the It Takes Two to Talk® Program (Girolametto, Pearce & Weitzman). DeVeney and Hagman found that both parent and clinician implemented interventions improved expressive language skills in late talkers. However, the children who received parent implemented intervention demonstrated greater improvements than children who received treatment from a clinician. They concluded that parent implemented intervention is best practice.

DeVeney and Hagman also stated that parent implemented interventions were especially effective when parents were provided with at least three months of training that included components like structured lectures or workshops, strategy demonstrations, role plays, coaching and feedback. Hanen programs exemplify these features. This article is a great tool that you can use to advocate for caregiver training and running Hanen programs with the families you support.

## Reference:

DeVeney, S. L. & Hagman, J. L. (2016). Comparison of Parent-Implemented and Clinician-Directed Intervention for Toddlers Identified as Late Talkers: A literature Review. *Evidence Based Practice Briefs*, 10(6), 1-9.

### About The Hanen Centre

*Founded in 1975, The Hanen Centre is a Canadian not-for-profit charitable organization with a global reach. Its mission is to provide parents, caregivers, early childhood educators and speech-language pathologists with the knowledge and training they need to help young children develop the best possible language, social and literacy skills. This includes children who have or are at risk for language delays, those with developmental challenges such as autism, and those who are developing typically.*

*For more information, please visit [www.hanen.org](http://www.hanen.org).*

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