



# Collaboration and Sustainability

# Aim of Workshop

- share our experience of collaboration and sustainability
- explore with you the relationship between collaboration and sustainability
- consider some of the concerns and anxieties
- contribute some fresh ideas and solutions

. . . before that, some stuff about us!

# Our Early Years work

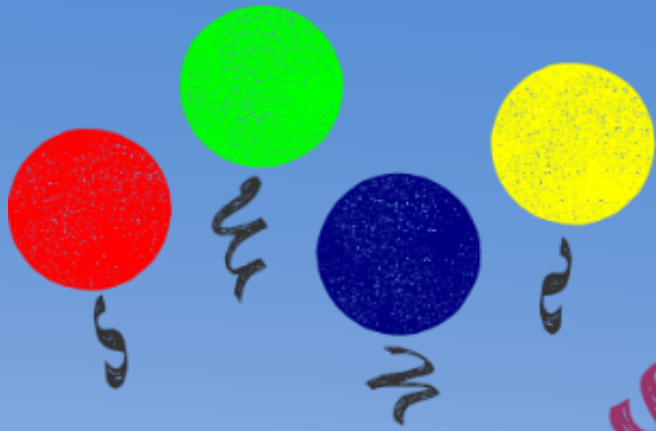
- Three Early Years Advisors providing advice and support to 200+ families across Scotland who have a child with a communication support need.
- Free of charge and open referral system
- Flexible access and support
- Made possible by funding from Scottish Government (currently in the second wave of three year funding)



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# Collaboration: *our approach*

- Values Fit: what values underpin the partnership?
- Added value: working with partners to add value to and complement the service we provide
- Inter-dependency: delivery is at its best in the middle ground
- Positive force: what unique contribution do we bring to the partnership?
- Honest collaboration: this is what it's NOT about



*sensation***ALL**

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**Together we make ‘sense’!**

Suz Strachan  
Operational Lead  
Occupational Therapist

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# Why our collaboration works

**Staff** – both orgs have highly experienced staff with open, flexible & similar working styles, proactive thinking and attitude, partnership friendly.

## **SA team**

Sensory integration  
(sensory motor & sensory processing)  
Physical positioning  
Behavioural analysis  
Functional analysis

## **Sense Scotland**

Sensory impairment  
Music experience  
Intensive interaction (esp  
with music)  
Emotional support

# Approaches

Both orgs use similar therapeutic and theoretical approaches

- developmental
- sensory based
- intensive interaction
- often (with the parents) using modelling techniques, self-reflection (with some video use)
- formatted around functional activities (both free & structured)

# Differences that work together

Both orgs provide services to same client group in same area  
– but the combined project provides:

- a unique, multi-faceted service in one place
- better quality with tailored, professional ‘symbiotic tag team’ provision
- right provision at right time (SA don’t require a diagnostic label = early intervention)
- peer support contact & opportunities (+ proactive involvement of young siblings)



# Benefits to both orgs include:

- shared good practice & prof peer support (esp for SA as an independent org)
- learning from each other opportunities
- improved funding options
- credit and partnership recognition (esp imp for SA as a small developing org)
- cost reducing & capacity building

# Sustainability

## Key Lessons:

- Gather the evidence from day 1
- Widen ownership of the programme
- The power of the volunteering
- Value the programme – put a price on it!
- Liberally use the F-word . . . Focus!
- Adapting and being flexible
- Marketing and promotion

***Discussion time . . .***