

Achieving Better Communication Groups

The Achieving Better Communication (ABC) groups started in October 2006 in Edinburgh. They are speech, language and communication groups for children with Down's Syndrome. Strathclyde University independently evaluated this project (full report available on request) and it was found that running a co-worker model ABC group works just as well as an SLT led Parental Workshops.

In 2015 we secured funding to expand the ABC groups to run in other areas. They are run by our dedicated co-workers who have been specifically trained to follow the targets and activities, set by the groups' Speech and Language Therapist who reviews each child's progress every 6 months and also supports and supervises the co-workers regularly during each term.

Frequently asked questions:

What age can my child attend? The groups provide advice to parents and activities for children from birth through to 18/19 years of age to develop speech, language and communication skills.

How much is it? £6 per session (£3 for those on lower income/benefits).

How long is a session? Between ½ hour to an hour depending on the size of the group and individual needs of the children.

Do I need to attend with my child? Parents/carers are encouraged to join in the groups with their child to learn skills and activities they can practise at home.

When and where do the groups run?

ABC Area	Co-worker	Day of Week	Venue
Edinburgh	Lorna Sanderson and Moira Clark	Friday	Down's Syndrome Scotland Office, Riverside House
Glasgow	Katy Lironi	Tuesday and Friday	Langside Parish Church
Aberdeen	Dawn McIntosh	Wednesday	Inchgarth Community Centre
Perth	Dawn McIntosh	Alternate Thursdays	Scout Hut, Perth Academy
Angus	Dawn McIntosh	Alternate Thursdays	Forfar Fire Station
Orkney	Alison Hone	Thursday	Various schools across Orkney
Leith	Moira Clark	Wednesday	Out of the Blue Drill Hall
Livingston	Moira Clark	Thursday	Lanthorn Community Association
Bonnyrigg	Moira Clark	Tuesday	Bright Sparks

How can I refer to the groups? Please fill in a referral form and return it by post/email to the address below.