

When Kate left her role as a Family Support Worker in March she used the SLCF to further her CPD and take time to consider what she wanted to do next. She will soon begin a voluntary role supporting a local community group. Her former role, which was based in North London, involved running drop-in groups and training in areas such as Intensive Interaction and Strengthening Families and Strengthening Communities.

“When I finished working I had more time to concentrate on thinking about my professional development. I first heard about the SLCF through some promotional material sent out by The Communication Trust in April and I’ve since logged in about 4 or 5 times to complete the Foundation and Universal levels. In the Universal level my confidence has increased from 75% to 100% so I’ll move on to the Enhanced soon. I would really recommend using the handbook whilst you familiarise yourself with the website.

The SLCF has definitely helped me understand my level of skill and knowledge concerned with speech, language and communication while I’ve not been working. It’s enabled me to identify the things I want to learn more about while I have the time to focus on my CPD, and, I’ve been securing my understanding of speech and language development and the stages of development as a result. The Universal level activities have been very useful for that.

A really nice touch is that when you complete a level you are signposted to training and resources. I’ve used Cracking the Code and Universally Speaking, gone through the Universal level activities and also undertaken the Platform 3 course which was really useful.

In terms of my next steps I will begin a voluntary community support position and plan to introduce the SLCF to parents while I’m there.

I’ve also started to apply for paid-for work in roles which will enable me to use my increased skills and knowledge around support children with speech, language and communication needs. I’ve applied for a post as an Early Intervention Outreach worker and I’m feeling a lot more confident about applying for paid work in this field now.

I’d definitely recommend the SLCF and would certainly want to introduce it to parent and colleagues in future posts.”

Kate, former Family Support Worker