

## 'chatter matters'<sup>TM</sup> week 2017: 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### Press release

(to the tune of 'Sing a song of sixpence'...)



*"Sing a song of sharing, a pocket full of rhymes  
Sing a song together, all at the same time  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday too  
11 o'clock's the time to sing, and we will sing with you!"*

'chatter matters'<sup>TM</sup> week aims to raise awareness of the importance of supporting early interactions from the moment children are born. During the week, families and early years practitioners in nurseries, playgroups and children's centres will be celebrating the joy and the benefits of singing for language, learning and cultural heritage. This year we are promoting **#singasongofsharing** and we'd like to invite all Warwickshire babies, children, families and practitioners to join us in singing a song each morning at 11 o'clock:

<b>Monday - Row row row the boat</b>	Sitting face to face as you sing shows your child that you are interested. They pick up lots of cues from your face.
<b>Tuesday - If you're happy and you know it</b>	Joining in with them helps your child to concentrate for longer. Children have lots of great ideas for new actions in this song.
<b>Wednesday - Little Peter Rabbit</b>	Using simple words with actions really helps children to understand what you say. Everything makes more sense!
<b>Thursday - Jelly on the plate</b>	Repeating the same phrases helps children learn what will happen next. They start to anticipate and get excited!
<b>Friday - Heads, shoulders, knees and toes</b>	Slowing down and pausing gives children a chance to join in with a look, a movement, a sound or a word.

We know that speech, language and communication are key skills to children's learning and development. Singing together is one of the best ways we can help babies and children develop as strong communicators. Unfortunately, we know that many young children struggle to develop the speech, language and communication skills that they are capable of and the negative consequences a can have life-long impact. The communication charity I CAN reports that 45% of young people referred for mental health services have communication difficulties. In February 2017, Lord Ramsbotham was quoted as saying that *'an inability to communicate is the scourge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and that means too many of our children are unable to communicate with their teachers and therefore engage with education'*. Warwickshire's **'time to talk'<sup>TM</sup>** team of Speech and Language Therapists (shortlisted this year for the 'Advancing Healthcare Award' for Contribution to Public Health, as well as The Communication Trust's 'Shine a Light' award for Innovation) is keen to ensure that all children in Warwickshire have the best start to life. And that begins with singing.



**Warwickshire 'time to talk'<sup>TM</sup>**

[www.warwickshire.timetotalk.wordpress.com](http://www.warwickshire.timetotalk.wordpress.com)



South Warwickshire   
NHS Foundation Trust

'time to talk' is a partnership project with Warwickshire County Council & South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust