



# “Teacher Talk”

Speech Pathologist – Natasha Hurray -Language Express  
 Project Leader -Janice Deacon - Upper Canada District School Board



## INTRODUCTION

### Research Question

**Does Hanen training increase educator capacity in the area of oral language development?**

Teacher Talk is a Hanen training series based on Learning Language and Loving It-The Hanen Program for Early Childhood. Hanen is a research-based developmental approach to promoting children’s social, language and literacy development through everyday activities and conversations. Hanen creates a language-rich, highly interactive environment, suitable for children at risk for language delays, children who have language delays and typically developing children. Hanen training provides educators with a solid foundation of strategies for oral language stimulation, Hanen promotes and stimulates oral language and works to develop a more inclusive classroom community. Target settings involve kindergarten classrooms. Our project involved three days of Hanen Training provided by Speech Pathologist, Natasha Hurray, from Language Express. Participants in the training included 4 kindergarten teachers, 2 Early Childhood Educators , 2 Educational Assistants (UCDSB) and 6 Queen’s students.

## Data Collection

The level of oral language development that a child comes into school with is the best predictor of future success in the area of literacy. The everyday Kindergarten allows the pace of its programming to slow down and provides more opportunities for language in small group settings. By focusing on Hanen’s language strategies, the Kindergarten educator becomes more aware of how to initiate, extend and expand children’s language development. Although our data collection is not complete the pre-assessment videos have been scored and we will compare them to post-assessment videos.

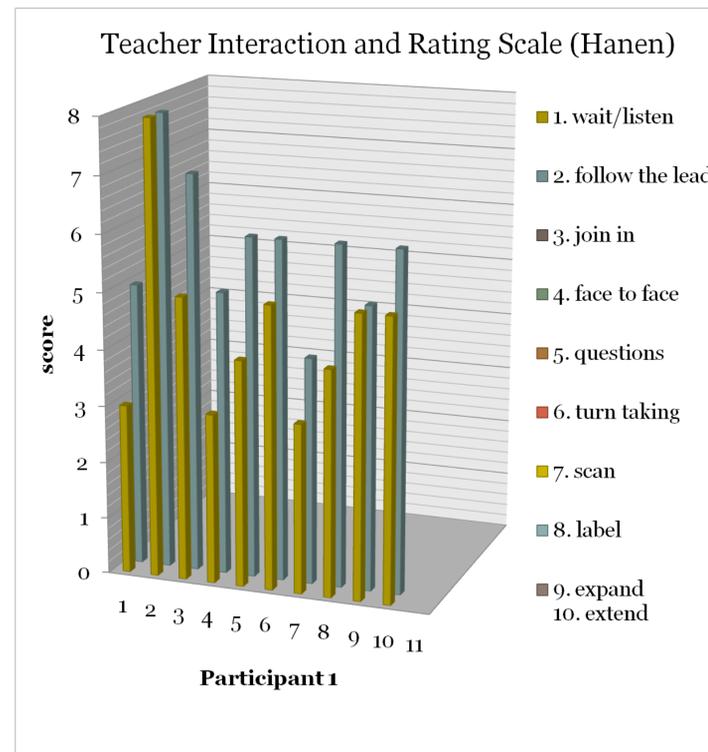
## Oral Language Stimulation Strategies

- Observe, Wait, Listen
- Follow the Children’s Lead
- Join In the Play
- Be Face-to-Face
- Use a Variety of Questions
- Encourage Verbal Turn-Taking (Strive for Five)
- SCAN to encourage group interaction
- Use a Variety of Labels
- Add and Expand
- Extend the Topic

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

The following represents the topic for each of the 3 days of training:  
 Training A-Encouraging Language Development in Early Childhood Settings  
 Training B-Let Language Lead the Way to Literacy  
 Training C-Fostering Peer Interaction in Early Childhood Settings  
 Three workbooks (Hanen) supported the training and provided the resource material for each day’s training. After the first day of training the 4 Teachers and 2 ECEs were videotaped (pre-assessment) by the speech pathologist in an oral language setting. Each video was scored using the Teacher Interaction and Language Rating Scale (Hanen). (see sample graph). After the final day of training participants were videotaped (post assessment )and scored using the aforementioned rating scale and the results were compared (see graph).

All participants were asked to fill out an evaluation of the training on the final day to further gauge usefulness of the training in building teacher capacity.



## Conclusions

The number one predictor of literacy success is the # of interactions happening between the teacher and the child lasting at least 5 times.

## REFERENCES

The Hanen Program  
 Helping Children Communicate  
[www.hanen.org](http://www.hanen.org)

THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTRE  
 FACULTY OF EDUCATION  
 McArthur Hall A363  
 511 UNION STREET  
 KINGSTON, ONTARIO K7M 5R7  
 613-533-6000 x75775  
[community.outreach@queensu.ca](mailto:community.outreach@queensu.ca)