

Talking Matters Meeting Notes April 15 2016

Main discussion items

What we know:

- Reading, writing and drawing - all important in literacy
- Vulnerable families may be *time and experience poor* as well as having low oral language
- The quality of interaction makes a difference
- The downstream implications of low oral language are massive. 85% of juveniles who come into contact with court are functionally illiterate

It's everyone's business

- This is not just about families understanding the importance of talking. Families, teachers, trusted messenger organisations and government need to value speaking and listening
- Make sure MOE new entrant/school readiness transition people in the room

The importance of culture and bilingual education.

- Strengthen comments about bilingual education.
- Take culture into account – family cultures as well as ethnic culture – talk happens differently with different families

Resources/actions needed

- Would be really useful to have Video clips for teaching resources – to illustrate how to read with children
- Need resource list of info/materials. Any database for network organisations with what they do
- Teachers need facts about oral language; Teachers (ECE and school) aren't always skilled and confident to support children's language development
- Provide organisations with specific suggestions so they can be fed into organisation's work
- Encourage service to use RBA reporting to capture small changes in family and service practice
- Build in pathway from birth to SPACE (programme for first time Parents) and Hippy!