The ITS training team is a team of two who have a small amount of dedicated time to provide free training workshops for Early Years settings, Primary schools and Secondary Schools across Somerset.

Packages include:
- **Early Years** – Early communication skills, Speech and Information carrying words.
- **Primary Schools** – Vocabulary, Speech, Information carrying Words and blank levels.
- **Secondary Schools** – Supporting secondary age pupils with speech, language and communication difficulties. Schools are also welcome to attend the speech and vocabulary training.

Workshops are run over a morning or short day by one member of the team. Workshops run with a minimum of 8 attendees and a maximum of 26. This ensures it is making the most of therapist time, but there is the opportunity for individual questions and discussion.

Participants are asked to provide feedback about the presentation at the end of the workshop. The presentations are regularly altered and developed based on this feedback.

Numbers of participants can fluctuate especially as the workshops have been run several times now. We are creating a questionnaire for early years settings and schools, to identify when would be best to run the workshops, to allow maximum attendance.

Over 50 workshops run recently by us across Somerset!

Contact name: Emma Standen
Email: emma.standen@sompar.nhs.uk
Service: Integrated Therapy Service (ITS)

**Evidence of impact**

- Feedback from attendees:
  - “Really helpful course, useful to help children’s development and understanding” (Early Years ICW)
  - “I found this very helpful. X explained everything very well and I feel I have a much better understanding of this area of learning” (Early Communication Skills)
  - “Activities really allowed us to be in the child’s shoes, to see how it would feel and how the activities could be used.” (Vocabulary)
  - “Com to session knowing limited information, now feel confident to implement in school” (School Age Speech)
  - “Lots of valuable information and lovely presenters (plus chocolate of course)” (Secondary training – chocolate is always a winner!)

- Feedback given in weeks after the workshop:
  - ‘Our FS teacher went on the free training other week and absolutely loved it. She has since been listening closely to children and has made another referral. A parent spoke to me at the governors meeting and said he had noticed such a difference with his child.’