

NCB have worked in partnership with Jersey Child Care Trust and supported by the UBS Optimus Foundation UK on an ambitious three year project (2016 – 2019), to facilitate capacity building in the early years sector and improve outcomes for young children and their families.

Historically, too many children in Jersey were not reaching their full potential and Jersey's early years services did not have the opportunity for sharing best practice and improvement.

The [Centre for Research in Early Childhood](#) (CREC) have provided an external evaluation report on the first three years of the programme.

With 282 practitioners trained and 2,363 children participating across the programme, the evidence in the report demonstrates that the ECD Programme has had *"a proven and significant impact at Government level and also across the early years sector in Jersey"*.

### **CREC found a positive impact across the three areas of work in the programme:**

- **Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA)** has been particularly successful in relation to significantly improving planning and collaborative working on the island at a strategic level. This is evident in a stakeholder statement:-

*"OBA has been a real success. The focus has shifted and the States/Government has a real commitment to putting children first, driven initially by the Enquiry raising protection issues. The Island community have taken notice and there has been a change in visibility. Now ALL children are visible."*

- **The Making it REAL** (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) and **Knowledge Makes Change** (KMC) strands of the programme have successfully increased both practitioner and parental knowledge and engagement in developing strategies to support young children's development.
  - 85% of children improved oral language skills, 84% shared books at home more, and there was an increase in 72% regularly practicing writing skills.
- **REAL Literacy Training:** A series of funded 2-day training programmes has been delivered to 92 early years practitioners.
  - *"Over 90% of practitioners rated the training excellent or very good in terms of increasing knowledge of engaging with parents to support learning; supporting children with early literacy and early identification of need and onward referral. 83% of practitioners rated the training excellent"* (evaluation report)
- **Knowledge Makes Change Seminars:** A series of seminars on a variety of topics, including supporting bilingual families; supporting children with SEN; supporting emotional well-being; and supporting maths in the early years, all brought high profile key note speakers to Jersey. Each seminar gained an average attendance of 74 Early Years Practitioners in addition to key strategic partners.