

BEST

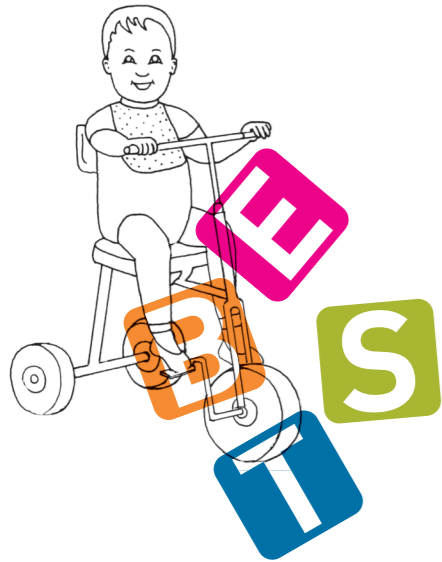
**Building
Early
Sentences
Therapy**

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Winner
of the Sternberg Award
for Clinical Innovation

Building Early Sentences Therapy



A theoretically-motivated intervention for children with severe speech and language difficulties.

Winner of the Sternberg Prize for Clinical innovation.

BEST is a Sternberg Prize-winning, theoretically motivated early language intervention (Building Early Sentences Therapy – BEST), which has been developed through partnership between academics and practitioners. BEST is for children aged between 3;0 years and 6;0 years who have yet to consistently produce three phrase spoken sentences such as “the man is eating an apple”.

BEST has been successfully used in a busy Children’s Speech and Language Therapy Service in community and school settings. BEST may be delivered in small groups or individually. The homework packs and progress chart are designed to be attractive and easily accessed by all families, even those with limited literacy skills.

The BEST approach is delivered in English. Bilingual BEST in other minority ethnic languages will be available in the future.

BEST includes structured descriptive assessments. These assessments allow the child’s progress to be compared with their own baseline prior to commencing the programme. This means that BEST may be used as a diagnostic therapy package and makes outcome measurement simple.

BEST is based on current linguistic theory and is child-led. The child does not have to provide responses immediately and can listen to learn language, joining in when they feel confident to do so. The use of toys and real objects make it accessible and fun for children and their families.



BEST Toolkit

The BEST Toolkit includes everything you need to deliver the Sternberg Prize-winning, theoretically motivated early language intervention (Building Early Sentences Therapy – BEST), which has been developed through partnership between academics and practitioners. It includes:

1. **BEST Manual** – a full roadmap on how to deliver the intervention.
2. **BEST Eligibility assessment**
3. **BEST Assessment Picture Booklet**

This assessment allows SLTs to monitor progress, measure and demonstrate outcomes and decide on the next steps for intervention.

4. BEST Assessment and Therapy Recording Form

This document is a single recording form which collates all of the child’s BEST assessments and therapy notes in one place and can be placed in a child’s clinical notes. It can be placed directly into the child’s notes for speedy and detailed record keeping.

5. BEST Care Plan Treatment Aims

6. BEST Care Plan

7. Paget Gorman Signed Speech Booklet for Therapy Sessions

8. Twelve Homework Booklets, which will be supplied as pdfs

9. Child’s Star Chart, so that the child can see their progress

10. BEST Wall Chart, which summarises the steps of a BEST therapy session to support staff to deliver the approach successfully every time

The Best Box

Much of the intervention is delivered using toys such as dolls, teddies, toy furniture and foods. The BEST Box has everything you require. Each session requires different toys, and the BEST Box contains all the toys for each session in numbered bags, so that you’ll always have every session ready to go.



BEST Training

A full one-day Training programme on the BEST Intervention, delivered by Dr Carol Stow. Please note we’re happy for BEST Toolkits and boxes to be shared across a team. However, all SLTs who use BEST, write care plans for others using BEST or supervise the delivery of the intervention, must receive this training.

Contact Steve Erdal (steve.erdal@ncl.ac.uk) for the latest training dates.

www.b-e-s-t.org.uk





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