

## Hanen Approach

The Hanen Approach was created in 1975 by Ayala Hanen Manolson, a Speech and Language Pathologist in Montreal, Canada. She created the approach to address research indicating that parental involvement is crucial to a child's intervention programme.

The approach advocates that the natural environment is the best way for children to learn, providing them with opportunities to communicate with key people in their lives.



## What is Hanen Approach?

The Hanen Approach is an 11-week language intervention programme for parents who have a child with language delay. The programme includes eight sessions of teaching parent strategies, and three sessions where a Speech and Language Therapist visits the child's home to give parents individual feedback (Girolametto, Pearce and Weitzman, 1996). The three home visits involve filming the parents interacting with their children in free play. The parents and the Speech and Language Therapist then watch the videos back to enable the Speech and Language Therapist to provide immediate feedback. In addition, Hanen has developed a number of different programmes for use with children with a range of needs.

These programmes include:

- It Takes Two to Talk® – The Hanen Program® for Parents of Children with Language Delays;
- Target Word® – The Hanen Program® for Parents of Children who are Late Talkers;
- TalkAbility™ – The Hanen Program® for Parents of Verbal Children on the Autism Spectrum (Aspergers);
- More Than Words® – The Hanen Program® for Parents of Children on the Autism Spectrum.

## Why use Hanen Approach?

There are a range of benefits to using this approach, including (but not limited to):

- Increasing the child's understanding of language;
- Increasing a child's use of vocabulary.

## Who can benefit from Hanen Approach?

The approach can be used for one to one therapy with children with:

- Language delay;
- Autistic Spectrum Condition.

## Who can deliver Hanen Approach?

The Hanen Approach is administered to parents, and often teachers, by Hanen certified Speech and Language Therapists, to support their use of the approach.

## Evidence for Hanen Approach

There is a moderate evidence base for the Hanen Approach. Research has demonstrated significantly positive outcomes for children, where the Hanen Approach is found to be no less effective than more traditional speech and language therapy (Coulter & Gallagher, 2011; Baxendale & Hesketh, 2003).

## References

Baxendale, J. & Hesketh, A. (2003). Comparison of the Effectiveness of the Hanen Parent Programme and Traditional Clinic Therapy. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*, 38(4), pp.397-415.

Coulter, L. & Gallagher, C. (2001). Evaluation of the Hanen Early Childhood Educators Programme. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*, 36, pp.264-269.

Girolametto, L., Pearce, P.S., and Weitzman, E. (1996) Interactive Focussed Stimulation for Toddlers with Expressive Vocabulary Delays. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research*, 39, pp.1274-1283.