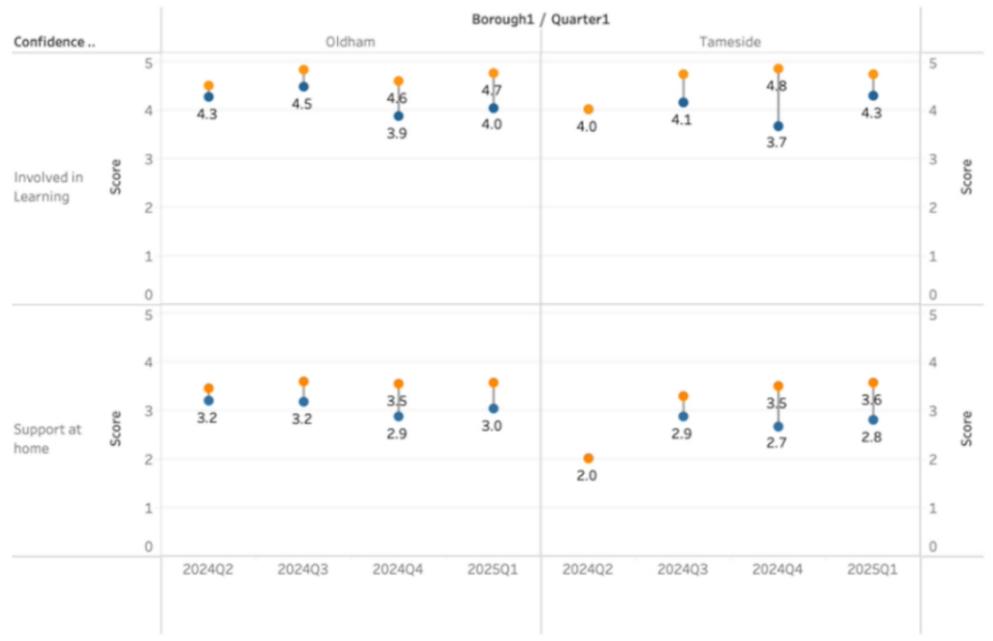


# Assessing the Impact of the Play Learn Grow (PLG)

## Programme in Greater Manchester Saira Chowdhury | BA Politics

Parental Confidence (Before Vs After)



### Parental Confidence:

- Consistent increase in parental confidence after sessions in all quarters (2024-25).
  - Highest confidence gains seen for parents joining before their child's 2nd birthday.
  - Parents reported feeling more engaged and better equipped to support learning at home.
- Correlation: Confidence & Development:
- Boroughs showing the highest growth in parental confidence (Oldham) also showed stronger improvement in GLD (Good Level of Development) outcomes.
  - Suggests that parental confidence is a key lever for children's early learning success.

## Overview of the Data Fellowship

During my Q-Step Data Fellowship with Home-Start HOST, I evaluated the Play Learn Grow (PLG) programme, which supports children's early development and parental confidence across Oldham and Tameside. The project explored attendance, demographics, learning outcomes, and the relationship between parental confidence and child development. Findings fed into a live performance dashboard and final evaluation report for Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

## Data Analysis

I analysed multi-sheet datasets from the PLG 2024-25 evaluation, covering child outcomes, parental confidence, and demographics.

Key methods included:

- Cleaning and standardising participant data.
- Calculating pre-post improvements (1-9 scale for children; 1-5 for parents).
- Comparing results to EYFSP Good Level of Development (GLD) benchmarks.
- Mapping reach by ward and deprivation level using Free School Meals (FSM) and child poverty indicators.

## Findings

Children's Development:

- Children made measurable progress across all early learning domains.
- Oldham showed the largest gains in Early Writing and Environmental Print.
- Children starting from lower baselines improved the most — evidence of PLG's impact in closing gaps.

## Key Skills Learnt

Data Analysis & Visualisation- Cleaned and merged multi-sheet datasets, analysed outcomes, and created Tableau dashboards.

Parental Confidence by child Age Group at Intake

- Communication & Collaboration- Presented findings to HOST and GMCA, turning data into accessible visuals.

Policy Insight- Linked evidence to GMCA's school readiness and early years strategies.

Average Parental Confidence Score

- Adaptability & Problem Solving- Managed incomplete data and variable session frequency across

