

Children's Speech and Language
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For more information visit our website

www.midyorks.nhs.uk

and select Children's Speech and Language

We are committed to providing high quality care. If you have a suggestion, comment, complaint or appreciation about the care you have received, or if you need this leaflet in another format please contact us directly or contact the Patient Advice Liaison Team (PALS) on 01924 542972 or via email: pals@midyorks.nhs.uk

Children's Speech and Language Therapy



Children's Therapy



Information for Parents

What is Speech & Language Therapy?

Many children have difficulties with learning to talk. Your child may have difficulty in understanding speech or may be late in using words or making sentences. It may be that your child is difficult to understand and that some words are not very clear.

A Speech & Language Therapist:

- will be able to help your child's speech and language skills to develop. The therapist is able to advise on any difficulties with communication and also work on any fluency problems such as stammering.
- works in local community clinics, in schools and specialist children's centres in hospitals.
- works with parents, teachers, health staff and children. This may be in a group or one-to-one.

Your first visit

Please speak with your child before your first visit and explain why the visit is taking place. During your first visit the therapist will ask you about your child's development and about your family. It would be helpful to bring your red child health record with you.

The therapist will assess your child to find out what the difficulties are and discuss the findings with you. Together you will decide upon the next step.

The usual options include:

- group therapy sessions
- regular therapy on a one-to-one basis
- referral on to other specialist services.

During the course of speech and language therapy you may be given activities to practice with your child. These will form a vital part of your child's therapy.

Sometimes it is difficult to remember information you might be asked for or questions that you might want to ask at your first appointment. Before your first appointment it may be useful to make a few notes.

Your child may also work with a Speech & Language Therapy Assistant

The Assistant:

- follows treatment plans developed by the therapists
- liaises with therapists and discusses progress
- assists therapists to plan, equip and run language and phonology (speech sounds) groups
- designs, develops and prepares equipment and materials as requested.

Consent and confidentiality

It is useful to let your child's playgroup, nursery or school know that speech and language therapy has been offered. You may wish to tell them which areas you have been working on and show any work you have been given.

With your agreement the therapist may contact the playgroup, nursery or school to discuss how best to help your child. Your agreement will be sought in writing and you may withdraw your consent at any time.

Appointments

If you are unable to attend an appointment please contact the Speech & Language Therapy department as soon as possible.

Messages may be left at the main office on 01977 465417. An answer machine is also available on this number.

If you are moving house or your child is changing schools, please let the therapist know.