



## Speech and language therapy for children and young people in Hounslow

### What is a speech and language problem?

Some children and young people have difficulties communicating. Many children under 5 need some help in developing skills. Over 5% of older children will have significant, longer-term communication difficulties. This is due to a wide range of causes and can present in many different ways, including delay and difficulty in achieving:

- Safe and effective feeding and swallowing
- Successful social interaction with other people
- Clear speech sounds
- Reliable understanding of spoken/signed language
- Clear and effective use of spoken/signed language
- Associated skills in written language
- Fluent speech
- Healthy and strong voice use

### I think my child might have one or more of these difficulties. What should I do?

Talk about your concerns with your child's Health Visitor, GP or teacher and decide together if a referral is a good idea.

### How to refer your child to speech and language therapy?

Speech and Language Therapy has an open referral system – anyone e.g. Parents, Health Visitor or School Nurse, GP, School, Nursery or Children's Centre staff can refer a child or young person for assessment, including the young person themselves if aged 14 or over.

Written consent from the main care giver is required before the child or young person can be referred and seen, (except in the rare case of a self-referring young person aged 14+).

### What will happen if I refer my child?

#### If your child is aged 0-5:

When we receive the referral for your child, you will be asked to bring your child to an individual appointment at a clinic. The service aims to see your child within six weeks in line with local guidelines. The Speech and Language Therapist will talk to you and carry out play activities with your child to assess if they have any difficulties and decide with you on what to do next.



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## What will happen if I refer my child?

### If your child is aged 5+:

Most referrals for children within this age group come from school staff (with parental consent). The service aims to see your child within six weeks in line with local guidelines. When we receive the referral for your child a Speech and Language Therapist will contact both you and the school and arrange to carry out an initial appointment in school to work with your child both individually and in the classroom in order to assess your child's speech language and communication difficulties and identify how these difficulties are affecting their learning at school.

Following the appointment the therapist will share the assessment findings and provide ideas about how your child can be supported at home and in the classroom at school.

### Feeding and swallowing:

If your child has a difficulty with feeding or swallowing that is resulting in choking or other serious effects you are advised to contact your GP to seek immediate help and advice. They will refer on for a specialist speech and language therapy assessment where necessary.

## What does the speech and language therapy service aim to do?

Our service aims to:

- provide information, assessment, advice and treatment for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)
- provide information, assessment and management of feeding and swallowing difficulties
- provide training and support for families and other people involved in the care of those with SLCN
- provide training for professionals who work with children and young people with SLCN
- carry out general and targeted supportive work in the community to prevent or reduce communication difficulties from developing
- participate in research and development and student therapist training

We achieve this in different settings – clinics, special schools, primary and secondary schools.

We work with other professionals in health, education and social care services as well as with voluntary and charitable organisations.





## What is speech and language therapy like?

Sometimes, therapy will take the form of advice and suggestions regarding small adjustments that you, (and others involved in the care of your child), can make to everyday living to support the development of the child's speech, language and communication.

When we work directly with young children, our activities are play-based. We aim for children to learn through playing and having fun. We use toys, pictures, books and whatever else will interest the child in order to get maximum attention and best results.

When we work with older children and young people, we still aim to keep activities fun and relaxed but sometimes there will be a greater element of more formal teaching involved.

We often ask parents, teachers and others involved in the day-to-day care of the child to carry out certain games and activities between therapy sessions. This is a vital part of therapy because we need the child to practise using their new communication skills for everyday life.

## What is a speech and language therapist?

All of our therapists complete a degree course and many also hold masters degrees and other forms of post-graduate qualification.

All of our therapists are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council which is responsible for ensuring clinical excellence and safe practice.

All of our therapists are members of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists which further ensures continuing professional development.

All of our therapy and support staff have enhanced DBS (Police) clearance.

## What is a speech and language therapy assistant?

An assistant is a professional who has experience of working with children and who assists the therapists. Sometimes they work alongside therapists and sometimes they will work independently under the guidance of the therapist.



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## Contact us

We are based in a number of clinics and schools across Hounslow.  
The main speech and language therapy office is open 9am – 5pm and there is an answer phone to leave a message outside of these hours.

### Contact details:

Hounslow Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy Department:  
Teddington Health and Social Care Centre (THSCC)  
18 Queen's Road  
Teddington  
TW11 0LR

Tel: 020 8973 3480

**Children's Therapy Clinical Services Manager (Hounslow):** Uma Saimurahan

**Team Lead – Preschool:** Katharine Long

**Team Lead – School Age:** Aisling Kiely

**Senior Administrator:** Sheila Hill

### Suggested websites to visit:

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists [www.rcslt.org](http://www.rcslt.org)

National SLCN charity: [www.ican.org.uk](http://www.ican.org.uk)

Information about the development of Speech, Language and Communication:

Talking Point: [www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk)

The Communication Trust: [www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)

Communication Station: [www.nhselect2.org.uk/slt/](http://www.nhselect2.org.uk/slt/) (for videos of SLTs giving advice)



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