5. Dysfluent children often find rhythm and familiar language easy. Group activities such as singing, nursery rhymes etc. will help them practice fluent speech.

6. The child may not be aware that they are having difficulties with their talking, whilst some children can become quite anxious.

If the child has not been referred to a Speech and Language Therapist, try to discuss this with the parents and encourage referral as soon as possible.

Therapist …………………………………

Speech and Language Therapy Services
The Gem Centre
Neachells Lane
Wednesfield
Wolverhampton
WV11 3PG

Tel: (01902) 444363 (answerphone available outside office hours)
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rwh-tr.speech-and-language@nhs.net
http://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/Speech-and-language
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What is dysfluency?

Nurseries are often busy, noisy places with lots of activities demanding different levels of talking. Nursery children are still developing their speech and language skills, and may make errors. A child who has problems speaking fluently may:

- repeat sounds/words  
  e.g. c.c.c.cat
- stretch out words 
  e.g. caaaat
- get stuck on a sound 
  e.g. c……….at

Their ability to speak fluently can vary considerably perhaps during the day or week. It is often affected by how they are feeling e.g. tired, excited, rushed etc.

With the correct advice at an early age most children achieve fluent speech.

How to Help In the Nursery

Try not to single out the dysfluent child. If possible adopt some of the suggestions as a whole nursery approach; they will also help children with other language difficulties.

1. When talking to the child, try to keep language at a simple level so that they can easily understand. If possible, get down to the same level as the child to gain eye contact.

2. If the child often talks too quickly, do not tell them to slow down but model slow speech when talking to them.

3. Answering direct questions may be difficult for the child. Try to keep these to a minimum. Try to give the child the answer in question e.g. “Did you go to the park or Grandma’s?” rather than “What did you do at the weekend?”

4. Give the child time to talk or respond to questions. Try to introduce turn taking in the nursery to avoid competition to talk.