

Therapist .....

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The Royal Wolverhampton   
NHS Trust

## **SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICE**

### **LANGUAGE DELAY**

### **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND SCHOOL STAFF**

## What is language delay?

The term language delay is used to describe children whose language is developing in a normal sequence and pattern but at a slower rate than their peers.

## What effect will this have on your child?

- The amount of information your child understands may be reduced and/or
- They may not use as many words as expected (expressive skills)

## Ideas to encourage language development:

The Speech and Language Therapist can provide you with ideas to help your child to continue to develop their language skills.

Children with Language Delay will be discharged from the Service. If problems continue, they can of course be re-referred. The Speech and Language Therapist will be able to provide advice and information as appropriate.

## How can you help?

### To encourage understanding of language

- Ensure your child is listening to you before you speak to them.
- Reduce the amount of information you give to your child at one time.
- Repeat/rephrase information if you think they have not understood.
- Carry out instructions with your child so they can see what they are expected to do.

### To encourage development of spoken language

- Expand on your child's utterances.

For example:     child : "brick"  
                          adult : "yes, big brick"

Label new objects and experiences, rather than asking too many questions. This will help your child to understand and use new words.

Always praise your child for attempting to communicate.