

## How can I help?

- If you are unable to attend an appointment please ring to cancel giving as much notice as possible so the time can be offered to someone else.
- Please try out any activities suggested by the therapist. They are designed to become a natural and fun part of your daily routine.  
The best way for your child to develop speech, language and communication skills is from you and other people close to him/her, at home modelling good communication.

The therapist will work with you so that you are able to help your child through any difficulties s/he is having.

Please ask your therapist if you would like any further information or if you would like to be put in touch with local or national organisations which support children with communication difficulties.

## Before the appointment.....

If there is anything you would like to know about your child's appointment or our service please contact us at:

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

Tel. 01902 444363  
(answer phone outside office hours)  
Fax 01902 444442

[rwh-tr.speech-and-language@nhs.net](mailto:rwh-tr.speech-and-language@nhs.net)

[http://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/  
Speech-and-language](http://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/Speech-and-language)

The Royal Wolverhampton   
NHS Trust

**SPEECH AND LANGUAGE  
THERAPY  
FOR CHILDREN**

**Information for Parents and  
Carers**

An appointment with a Speech and Language Therapist has been suggested for your child. We hope that this leaflet will answer some of the questions you may have.

### **What will happen next?**

An appointment will be sent for your child to be seen in school or in your local clinic for pre-school children.

There is currently a waiting list for appointments but your child is likely to be seen within 18 weeks.

Please help us to offer you an appointment which you are able to keep as cancelling an appointment may cause a delay in your child being seen.

If your address or telephone number changes while you are waiting for an appointment please let us know.

### **What will happen at the appointment?**

- Toys and activities will be provided for your child while the therapist talks to you about your child's health, development and communication skills and needs.
- It would be helpful if you could bring your child's Health Record ('red book') with you to the appointment.

- The therapist will watch and listen as your child plays and talks and s/he may then ask your child to carry out particular activities.
- The therapist will discuss your child's communication skills and any difficulties s/he appears to be having with you. Together we will plan the next step so that you can help your child to make progress. If your child's communication skills are at about the same level as other children of their age no further appointments will be necessary.

### **What if my child needs therapy?**

Therapy may be offered if your child is having difficulties in one or more of the following areas:

- Listening and paying attention to what is said to him/her
- Understanding the words or sentences s/he hears
- Using words or putting them together into phrases and sentences
- Making or using the correct sounds in words
- Knowing how to use language in the right way in different situations
- Talking fluently without 'tripping up' or stammering on words
- Speaking without straining his/her voice.

### **How can Speech and Language Therapy help?**

Support from the therapy service may include the following:

- Discussion and advice on activities you can use at home
- Advising nursery/school staff on your child's communication needs and how to work on these in school.
- Providing advice leaflets and copies of games and activities for you or for nursery/school staff to use.
- Working directly with your child alone or as part of a small group in clinic or in nursery/school.

These are all different ways to help your child to develop new skills and confidence in communicating. Different ones may be appropriate at different times according to your child's changing needs.