

Information for Parents/Carers – Speech and Language Therapy in Specialist Schools and Integrated Resources

From September 2023, children and young people will access the Speech and Language Therapy Service through episodes of care. This means they will be open to us when they need specific support, but closed during times when their needs can be met by the support in place in school and at home.

This document explains how the Speech and Language Therapy service will work with your child or young person throughout their time at school. We work closely with schools and parents/carers to give you the skills to help your child or young person's communication across all parts of their life.

Levels of support

Sheffield Speech and Language Therapy Service provides support at three levels:



Marie Gascoigne's © The Balanced System framework (<https://pathway.thebalancedsystem.org/>)

Universal	<p>Most children and young people who go to specialist schools and integrated resources have speech, language and communication differences or difficulties. These needs may change over time and may impact on them in different ways.</p> <p>All children and young people in specialist settings benefit from strategies and support. We work with school to develop the skills of staff so that they can support children and young people's communication in the classroom. We also signpost staff to training they can access that will help them learn to use communication and eating/drinking strategies throughout the school day.</p> <p>Most specialist settings are able to provide this 'universal' level of support, without children and young people needing to be referred to Speech and Language Therapy. Language and communication is at the centre of the curriculum in specialist provision and staff have experience</p>
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	<p>of working with children and young people with a range of diagnoses affecting communication.</p> <p>The Sheffield SaLT service have created a vast library of resources and training, which can be accessed for free by following the links below.</p>
Targeted	<p>Some children and young people in specialist settings benefit from 'targeted' speech and language therapy support. These children and young people will be referred to our service for assessment, advice and intervention, delivered by a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speech and Language Therapist - Speech and Language Therapy Assistant - Supervised Speech and Language Therapy student - Trained member of school staff <p>The interventions might be one-to-one, in a small group or incorporated into everyday strategies at home or school. For many children and young people and their families, this level will provide enough support.</p>
Specialist	<p>A small number of children and young people in specialist settings may need more intensive 'specialist' therapy at certain times. The therapist will work with the school, assistants, families and members of the multi-disciplinary team to support their communication and eating/drinking/swallowing needs.</p> <p>Specialist level may not be needed all of the time and may be helpful at certain points on a child or young person or young person's journey.</p>

Descriptions taken from the Better Communication website © The Balanced System-
<https://pathway.thebalancedsystem.org/professionals/professionals-framework>

Reasons for referral

- The Speech and Language Therapist has recommended a referral back to the service.
- Your child or young person is showing any of the red flags from the attached 'meal and snack time red flags' document.
- Your child or young person needs an updated communication profile or mealtime mat due to changes in their communication or eating, drinking and swallowing.
- Your child or young person has a degenerative condition and there has been a change in their communication or eating, drinking and swallowing drinking.

- Your child or young person needs help to use other ways of communicating, such as pictures, symbols or signing.
- Your child or young person needs help with their speech sounds and is motivated to engage in practise.

Eating and drinking - requests for help from Speech and Language Therapy

Children and young people with eating and drinking difficulties can be referred using the referral form on our website. Referrals can be made by parents/carers or school staff / other professionals with your permission.

Communication - requests for help from Speech and Language Therapy

Children and young people who need support with their communication can also be referred using the referral form on our website. We have regular meetings with the teachers and communication team to discuss referrals. So if you have concerns or feel like further communication support is needed for your child, the first step would be to speak to your child's teacher. From the information provided, we identify which children and young people need to see us. For those who do not need to see us, we talk to school or parents/carers about other support they can put in place.

What happens when a child or young person is referred to Speech and Language Therapy?

When your child or young person is referred to our service, you can expect:

A first appointment over the phone – the therapist will ask questions about your child or young person's speech, language, communication or eating/drinking and any concerns or questions you might have. We will signpost you to useful resources from our online resource library. This may be enough at this stage and it may be agreed that your child or young person does not need to access any targeted or specialist support at this time.

Appointments in school – If further support is needed, we will book appointments for your child or young person in school. Parents/carers are always welcome to attend appointments in school, or to meet the therapist or assistant before or after the appointment.

Children and young people will be seen for an 'episode of care'. We will work collaboratively with your child or young person, their family, school and other key people in their life. Once support is in place, we end the episode of care and close them. Some children or young people may need another episode of care at another

time. Others will not need to see us again if they are well supported by school at a universal level.

Communication profile or mealtime mat

At the end of an episode of care, the therapist will write either a summary letter, an updated communication profile or a mealtime mat. These can be used to update your child or young person's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and their Communication and Health Passport.

Helpful links

- The Sheffield Children's Patient Resource Library: <https://library.sheffieldchildoryoungpersonens.nhs.uk/>
- Learn Sheffield: <https://www.learnsheffield.co.uk/Training/Salt-Resources-and-training/>
- Website: <https://www.sheffieldchildoryoungpersonens.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy-new-homepage/>
- Communication and health passport: <https://tinyurl.com/2nezm5I7>

Speech and Language Therapy
Flockton House
18 & 20 Union Road
Sheffield
S11 9EF

Telephone: 0114 2262333

This leaflet can be translated into different languages. Please follow the link below:













<http://tinyurl.com/293en243>













MEAL AND SNACK TIME RED FLAGS

If you see any of the following, please report this to the child or young person's class teacher straight away.

It may mean that the child or young person is having difficulty eating and/or drinking and that a mealtime checklist needs to be completed and the child or young person may need a referral to the Speech and Language Therapist.

 cough	Coughing when eating
 eye tearing	Eye tearing when eating
 choke	Choking when eating
 wet voice	Wet breathing or wet voice after eating
 gagging	Gagging when eating
 throat clearing	Throat clearing when eating
 multiple swallows	Multiple swallows for one piece of food/spoon
 food left in mouth	Food left in a child or young person's mouth after swallowing
 long meal times	Long mealtimes and minimal food intake
 tired	Falling asleep at mealtimes

 cough	Coughing when drinking
 eye tearing	Eye tearing when drinking
 gasp	Gulping or gasping when drinking
 wet voice	Wet breathing or wet voice after drinking
 weight loss	Weight loss
 infection	Recurrent chest infections
 stop	A reluctance to eat and drink (not associated with a temporary illness)
 distress	Distress at mealtimes or when drinking
 Not drinking enough	Minimal fluid intake
 seizure	Frequent seizures at mealtimes