

Speech and Language Therapy



If your school has any concerns about your child's speech or language skills they will recommend that your child is seen by the Speech and Language Therapist.

Speech and Language Therapists are the only professionals qualified to diagnose speech and language difficulties. They must be members of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) and they must also be registered with the Health Professionals Council (HPC) to practice in this country. It takes 3 – 4 years to train as a Speech and Language Therapist.

If the school recommends that your child is referred to Speech and Language Therapy you will be offered an appointment. This usually takes place in school or in the community clinic. The therapist will assess your child by playing some games and using assessments. This usually takes about $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 hour. The therapist will assess your child's:

- o **Speech**
- o **Understanding of words**
- o **Vocabulary**
- o **Ability to produce sentences**
- o **Use of words in context**

Following the assessment the therapist will write a report and treatment plan. These will contain some simple things to help your child's talking. Your child may then be seen in school by a specialist teaching assistant who has been trained to work with children with speech and/or language difficulties.

Your child may be seen individually or within a small group. You will be sent a copy of any programme and some games that you can play at home to support your child's speech and language development.

Your child's therapist, teacher and the teaching assistant will regularly review your child's progress and make any adjustments to the treatment plan as necessary.

You will be invited to talk about your child's speech and language development following the assessment and you will receive copies of all the paperwork.

The therapist will be happy to meet you to talk about your child's progress.