

**SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY REFERRAL GUIDANCE**

**SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN**

**General Information**

In order for referrals to be accepted by the speech and language therapy service you need to complete:

* Referral form
* School-age questionnaire

**Children with difficulties in understanding language and using sentences**

The speech and language therapy service accepts referrals for children who have a *specific* speech, language and communication need. These children are having greater difficulties understanding or using language than would be expected for their general level of development.

For those children whose language is at a similar level to other areas of learning we offer a range of training courses for professionals. These courses will provide professionals with a toolkit of strategies and activities in order that children’s speech and language can continue to develop alongside other areas of learning. Please contact us if you require information about these training courses.

**Children with speech difficulties**

Children may not produce all the sounds and sound combinations in words correctly until over the age of 7. Referrals are not accepted for the following difficulties unless the child is significantly concerned:

* a ‘lisp’ (‘s’ is said as ‘th’ eg ‘sock’ becomes ‘thock’)
* ‘r’, ‘l’, ‘ch’ – children may not acquire these sounds until 7 years

**Children with voice difficulties**

Children who regularly have a hoarse voice, lose their voice or experience tightness when speaking require a referral to Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) department. The ENT consultant will then make an onward referral to speech and language therapy if appropriate. This is to ensure that any medical reason for the voice difficulty has been investigated first.

**Children who stammer**

Stammering can develop in children from an early age. Please refer any child who is repeating words/sounds, prolonging words and/or getting stuck with words. We would also encourage referral of children who are showing signs of tension when talking or seeming reluctant to talk in front of other people.

**Children with social communication difficulties**

Children, who have difficulties initiating or responding to social communication, using communication for social purposes, developing social relationships, making their needs known, sharing information and participating in a two–way conversation may need further assessment.

Social communication difficulties may suggest an Autism Spectrum Condition. If the child has already been referred to an autism assessment and diagnosis service, the speech and language therapists who carry out assessments for the diagnostic teams may assess the child. In this instance referrals to the speech and language therapy service need not be made unless there are additional unmet social communication needs.

**SPEECH AND LANGUAGE QUESTIONNAIRE**



**Surname** ………………………… **Forename(s)** ………………………….….…

**NHS No**  …………………………… **Date of Birth** …………………………….…..

School staff referring pupils who havespeech, language or communication needs are asked to provide the following information to accompany the referral form. It is important to provide evidence that the child’s speech, language and communication are not ‘on par’ with other areas of learning and the impact this is having on them. Please attach copies of the Individual Education Plan/Support Plan and any reports from other professionals which will compare speech, language or communication with other areas of development. E.g. Educational Psychologist, SENSS.

**Describe the pupil’s strengths and needs in the following areas**

Attention and Listening

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| *Consider if the pupil is able to attend to more than one stimulus, e.g. looking and listening at the same time, how long they can attend for, whether they can maintain their own attention.* |

Understanding of Spoken Language

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| *Consider if there are any concepts/ vocabulary you would expect the pupil to comprehend, the length of instructions, the complexity of instructions, whether they can understand things which are out of context* *and* *whether they have any specific difficulties with inference and verbal reasoning*. |

Use of Spoken Language

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| *Consider the range of vocabulary used, whether the pupil is able to use appropriate word order, if there are grammatical errors, if they are able to retell an event or give a narrative.* |

Speech Sound Intelligibility/Fluency

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| *Consider which sounds or combinations of sounds the pupil has difficulty with. Comment on whether adults and/or children can understand the pupil, for example uses ‘t’ instead of ‘k’, missing off the ends of words.*  *Does the pupil have a stammer – repeat, prolong or get stuck with sounds or words? Are there signs of tension associated with speaking, or reluctance to talk within a group or in front of the whole class?* |

Social Communication and Interaction

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| *Consider if the pupil is unable to make their needs known or has significant difficulties taking part in class discussions or sharing in two-way conversations appropriately. Comment on whether the pupil initiates interactions and shows an interest in what others have to say and the pupils’ ability to interact with other children during play/break time and other speaking situations.* |

Progress and Attainment

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| *Consider the pupil’s progress over the last 1-2 terms and their current levels of attainment.*  Reading  Writing  Speaking and Listening  Numeracy |

Strategies or interventions staff have already tried

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| *What specific strategies have you tried e.g. adapting adult communication style, visual supports, access to Teacher’s Aide. It will be useful to mention if the child has been included in any small group interventions to ‘catch up’?* |

Any other comments

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| *Consider if the pupil uses any self-help strategies, e.g. clarifying instructions, asking for the meaning of words, using gesture to support their spoken communication, etc.*  *How aware is the child of their speech, language or communication difficulties, and what impact is this having on them?* |

Do you consider that the child’s speech, language and communication are at a similar level to other areas of learning or that they have a specific difficulty? Please explain

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Referrer’s Name………………………………….. Title ……………………………………

Signature ………………………………………….

School …………………………………….. ……..

Telephone ……………………………………….

Date ………………………………………….

**Please return to: Speech and Language Therapy Dept, 1st Floor,**

**Victoria House, Park Street, Hull, HU2 8TD.**

**Telephone 01482 617922**