Speech: Delayed development

Information for parents, teachers and carers

For more information, please contact Speech & Language Therapy on:

For York and Selby Area: 01904 726599
For Scarborough Whitby, Ryedale Area: 01723 342472
UNIVERSAL LEVEL: ‘What you need to know’

Support, enable and include your child through;

- Attendance at our training courses in relevant areas of Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN);
  - Identification of children with speech, language and communication difficulties.
  - Working with children with speech sound difficulties - unclear speech.
- Being aware of speech sound difficulties; a child may have difficulties with saying particular sounds or words.
- Being aware of the way speech sound skills usually develop.
- Being aware of the ways speech sound development can be immature or not following the usually expected path.
- Being aware that the child’s speech sound skills may be in line with their general development.
- If your child still has a dummy, always removing it if your child tries to talk and trying to wean your child off the dummy completely.
- Knowing that a child with these difficulties is not lazy and should not be asked to correct speech unless as part of a Speech and Language therapy plan.
- Being aware on the effects speech problems can have on accessing the curriculum.

- Accessing information from relevant sources such as;
TARGETED LEVEL: ‘What you do, in light of what you know’

Boost your child/young person’s speech sound skills further by;

- If your child says a word incorrectly then accept it, but model the correct way of saying it so that they always hear the way they should be said e.g. if your child says “Look, a but.” You could say “Oh yes, it’s a bus.” with slight emphasis on the sound your child mispronounced.

- Not constantly correcting your child or telling them they have said something incorrectly. This implies criticism and may cause your child to become frustrated and put them off talking.

- Making sure that your child has had their hearing checked as hearing difficulties can be linked with speech sound difficulties.

- Repeating what you have understood back to your child as this should help to build their self-esteem and makes them feel part of a conversation.

- If you cannot understand your child, try asking questions and encourage him/her to show you, use actions or point.

- Giving a list of unfamiliar words e.g. family names/pets to your child’s teacher or use a home-school book, where you can record events and weekend activities. This will help school staff to anticipate what your child might be trying to communicate.

- Including your child in targeted level speech interventions in school e.g. Listening and attention skills group Phonological awareness group

- Reassuring your child by acknowledging that we all find words tricky sometimes.
Tell us what you think

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact:

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Teaching, Training and Research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of staff and improve health and healthcare in our community. Staff or students in training may attend consultations for this purpose. You can opt-out if you do not want trainees to attend. Staff may also ask you to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Patients, relatives and carers sometimes need to turn to someone for help, advice or support. Our PALS team is here for you.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or via email at pals@york.nhs.uk

An answer phone is available out of hours.

About Us

Providing care together in York, Scarborough, Bridlington, Whitby, Malton, Selby and Easingwold.

Caring with Pride:

Our ultimate objective is to be trusted to deliver safe, effective and sustainable healthcare within our communities.

Our values:

- Caring about we do
- Respecting and valuing each other
- Listening in order to improve
- Always doing what we can to be helpful

Speech and Language Therapy: Speech Delay