

# Coventry Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service for Preschool children

The Coventry Children's Speech and Language Therapy service is a specialist service which aims to support children and young people to reach their full speech, language and communication potential.

The Speech and Language Therapy team work with babies and preschool children who have difficulties with

- Speech sounds
- Language (understanding and talking)
- Feeding & swallowing
- Stammering
- Selective mutism
- Hearing impairment
- Voice disorders

Augmentative and Alternative Communication



## How can I access the service?

If your child is registered with a Coventry GP they can be referred to our service. Anybody can make a referral on behalf of a child including parent/carer, teachers, other health professionals including GPs.

Please visit our referral tab on our website under 'About us' for more information about how to refer. ([www.coventrychildrensslt.co.uk](http://www.coventrychildrensslt.co.uk) )

## Pre School assessments:

We aim to see children for an assessment within 18 weeks. Details of our current waiting times are available on our website (in the 'About us' section). We will offer priority appointments for children with the highest level of need.

## Where do we work?

We offer most of our first Speech and Language Therapy appointments at the City of Coventry Health Centre (fourth floor). Pay and display parking is available on site. We are approximately 5 minutes walk from Pool Meadow bus station in Coventry City Centre or you may attend an appointment virtually on Attend Anywhere. Most appointments are approximately 45 minutes.

After a child has been seen for their first appointment, if further input is required children will be offered follow up appointments at City of Coventry Health Centre, at their nursery or at home.

## How do we work?

All children and young people accepted to the service will be offered an assessment appointment with a Speech & Language Therapist. The therapist will assess the child's strengths and needs through discussion with the parent/carer and through play-based activities or through more formal assessment.

Following assessment, the therapist will give advice and recommendations to develop the child's communication at home and in nursery. Further support will be offered dependent on the child's Speech, Language or Communication Needs (SLCN), the impact this has on them, the support available and the potential for therapy activities to make a difference.

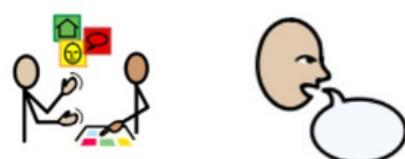
This means that some children with communication needs will receive advice from the Speech and Language Therapist whereas others will receive direct support, depending on their need.

To get the most out of intervention we work together with the child, their family, education staff and other important people around the child.

## What could be offered:

We offer assessment, ongoing support for children with the highest level of need who require support with:

- Speech sounds
- Stammering
- Feeding and swallowing
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Voice disorders
- Selective Mutism



For preschool children where the child's primary area of need is language (i.e. understanding and/or talking), we offer assessment and a period of intervention with the aim of training parent/carer and education staff to support the child. Following this package of intervention the child will be closed to the service with advice and recommendations. If the child's needs change, the child can be re-referred to the service for further advice and support.

For children requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) we will provide an assessment to outline the child's individual needs and share these recommendations in a report with parent/carer and the Local Authority.

The provision of speech and language support within an EHCP is the responsibility of the Local Authority. The Local Authority ask Children's Speech and Language Therapy at Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust to provide this for some of the children. Other children may have their needs met by others e.g. private speech and language therapists or specialist teachers.

If parent/carers and nurseries have any queries about how speech and language support will be delivered for children with an EHCP they should contact the child's SEN Education Officer at Coventry City Council.

If an education setting buys additional speech and language therapy from our service , they are able to ask the therapist to work with children with an EHCP in their setting, if they wish.

### **When further support is offered we :**

- Will decide what your child needs to work on first. Most children do better if we pick 2 or 3 things at a time.
- Will advise you on how to work with your child to meet their communication goals
- May work directly with you and your child to work on their specific goals
- Will ask other people to help your child by carrying out the activities we recommend e.g. at nursery
- May provide training to you and other professionals
- Will refer your child to other professionals if needed, with your consent.
- May offer your child a package of intervention , after which your child will be closed to the service.

If a review appointment is required for your child, we will send you a letter asking you to call in to book an appointment at a suitable date and time.

## **Training**

We offer a range of Universal and Bespoke training sessions. Please visit the 'Training' section of our website for up-to-date details around the training we offer. We also have lots of useful videos training videos for parent/carers and education staff on our website.



## **Discharge criteria**

Children are discharged from the service if they meet any of the following criteria:

- If the child makes progress and there are no longer concerns or their communication/feeding skills are within the normal range for their age.
- The child does not meet our service's eligibility criteria in relation to the severity of their need, the impact of their communication need or the support available for them to make progress.
- The child presents with language needs (understanding and talking) and they have completed a package of intervention. Parent/carers/education staff can re-access support from our service if the child's needs change.
- The child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and the Local Authority do not ask Children's Speech and Language Therapy to deliver their provision.
- If you don't come to an appointment and don't let us know, you will be sent a letter asking you to ring us within 4 weeks. If we do not hear back from you, your child will be discharged.
- If the child no longer has a Coventry GP.