

Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy

Information for parents and carers



A children's Speech and Language Therapist can support a child with:

- Understanding spoken language
- Creating and using spoken sentences
- Understanding and using vocabulary
- Using their communication skills with others
- Fluency of speech, such as stammering
- Forming sounds and using these in words
- Eating and drinking skills

What will happen at your appointment?

Parents/carers are required to attend a child's initial appointment. The Speech and Language Therapist will talk to you about your concerns and ask about your child's speech and language development, or eating and drinking skills. The therapist will observe your child and may carry out specific activities and assessments. The therapist will talk to you about your child's strengths and any needs/ differences they may have identified.

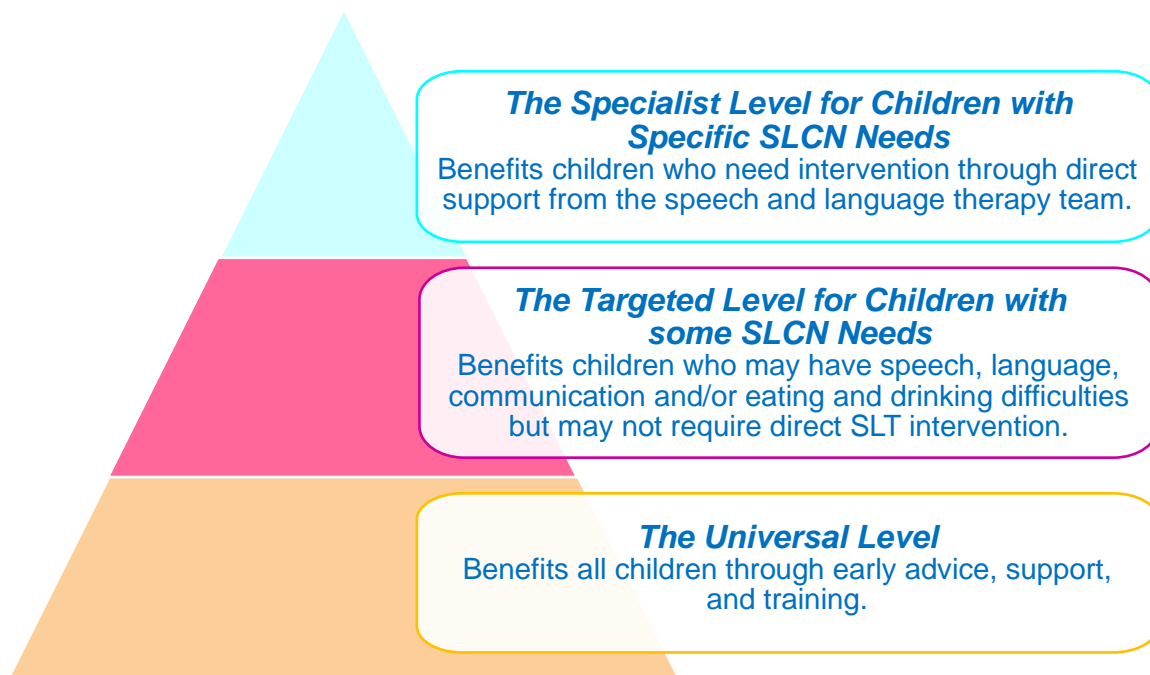
What will happen after your appointment?

At the end of the appointment, the therapist will talk to you about how your child is functioning and explain any next steps, these may include:

- Providing you with some advice and strategies
- Informing you about what episode of care is needed to support your child
- Guiding you to seek further support through your child's educational setting
- Making a referral to another service
- Advising you that no further support from the service is required at this time

What we can offer

Speech and Language Therapy in Hertfordshire follows the 3 Tier Model of service delivery. This is recognised as being the most effective way of improving children's speech, language, communication and eating and drinking skills.



Children may receive support at one or more levels depending on their speech, language, communication and/or eating and drinking needs.

Our Partners

- Children/young people and their families
- School staff (in both mainstream settings and specialist provisions)
- Early Years professionals, e.g., at nurseries, pre-schools, Children’s Centres
- Health Professionals, e.g., Paediatricians, GPs, Health Visitors, School Health Nurses
- Other educational professionals e.g., Advisory Teachers and Educational Psychologists
- Voluntary Agencies

Communication happens throughout the day in every context that a child or young person spends time in. Optimal development of speech, language and communication skills occurs when everyone who spends time with a children or young people is able to interact in a way that stimulates and supports development.

How we work with our partners

- We work collaboratively with our partners to improve the communication outcomes for children and young people across all 3 tiers of our service offer
- Share our knowledge with staff so they can better understand a child’s specific difficulties and needs. We offer a range of training, both formal and informal
- Work with families and the team around the child to set targets, deliver a programme and monitor progress
- Demonstrate activities to staff and suggest ways in which to use these in everyday situations to best support children

For further information

Please go to our website pages:

www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy/

We love getting your feedback

We want to know what is working well, and what may need improving. We do not identify people who give feedback and always ask permission to share their stories.

Whether you want confidential help and advice, have a comment, compliment, concern, or complaint, you can contact:

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Tel: 0800 011 6113

(10:00am to 2:00pm, Monday to Friday. Messages can be left outside these hours.)

Email: pals.hchs@nhs.net

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