

## How to refer:

If you think your child needs to see a speech and language therapist, you can:

- talk to your teacher of the deaf, audiologist, GP or paediatrician. They can make a referral for you.

If you have any referral queries, please email the administration team at:

### Orchard Health Centre

Cope Road, Banbury  
Oxon OX16 2EZ  
Tel: 01865 904 435

[oxonchildrens.therapies@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:oxonchildrens.therapies@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

If your child has a cochlear implant, you will see a SLT from the cochlear implant programme. They can offer regular appointments at the John Radcliffe during the first year post-implant. They will also talk to you about referral to our service.

If you would like to have information translated into a different language, please contact the Equality and Diversity Team at: [EqualityandInclusion@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:EqualityandInclusion@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

**Arabic** يُرجى الاتصال بنا إذا كنتم ترغبون في الحصول على المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بتسبيق مختلف.

**Bengali** আপনি এই তথ্য অন্য ভাষায় বা আলাদা আকারে পেতে চাইলে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

**Urdu** اگر آپ یہ معلومات دیگر زبان یا مختلف فارمیٹ میں چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

**Chinese** 若要以其他語言或格式提供這些資訊，請與我們聯繫

**Polish** Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, skontaktuj się z nami.

**Portuguese** Queira contactar-nos se pretender as informações noutra idioma ou num formato diferente.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Littlemore Mental Health Centre  
Sandford Road  
Littlemore  
Oxford  
OX4 4XN

Switchboard: 01865 901 000  
Email: [enquiries@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)  
Website: [www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

Become a member of our Foundation Trust  
[www.ohfnhs.uk/membership](http://www.ohfnhs.uk/membership)

**NHS**

**Oxford Health**  
NHS Foundation Trust



Speech and language therapy

Speech and  
language therapy  
service for deaf  
children

## What is speech and language therapy?

Speech and language therapy aims to help each child develop communication skills to their full potential.

This may include:

- receptive language (what your child understands)
- expressive language (what your child says or signs)
- speech skills (how your child pronounces words)
- interaction skills (how your child uses language socially)

In the early years, speech and language therapy is most effective when therapists work with parents to help their child's communication skills in everyday life.

Your child's speech and language therapist will also work closely with other professionals involved with your family, in particular your child's teacher of the deaf.

Whatever communication choices you make for your child, speech and language therapy may be able to help your child to further develop their communication skills.

## What can speech and language therapy offer?

**Assessment:** This can be formal or informal. Informal assessments use observations of your child playing and interacting. Most assessments involve asking you and their teacher (if your child attends school or nursery) for information. Formal assessments use standard tests to compare your child's development to that of other children, or are used to provide a description of your child's overall communication skills.

**Reports:** We write reports describing the finding of our assessments and interventions. You will always receive copies of these reports. With your consent, we will share these reports with other professionals working with your child.

**Support:** Intervention offered considers many factors including your child's needs, age and your wishes. As your child develops the support provided may change. Examples include:

- advice and activities to carry out at home and nursery or at school.
- regular review visits to monitor progress and update activities.
- blocks of therapy working on specific targets. We work with parents and teaching staff so that they are able to carry out these activities.

## The speech and language therapy deafness service

All speech and language therapists (SLTs) are specialists in children's language and communication development, the difficulties that arise and how to help.

In Oxfordshire, we have an outreach team of specialist SLTs who have specific skills and experience working with deaf children.

We also have strong links with the Oxford cochlear implant team at the John Radcliffe Hospital, including their speech and language therapy service for children with cochlear implants.

Specialist SLTs in deafness generally work with children who have severe or profound hearing losses. They may also support your local SLT if your child has a moderate or mild hearing loss.

We visit children at the following locations:

- home
- pre-school or nursery
- mainstream schools
- hearing impaired resource bases at New Marston and Cherwell schools.