

Information for patients

Who is the service for:

The NHS Early Years Service is for children aged 3 years to entry into Reception class, and the Early Years Special Educational Needs service is from birth also through to entry into Reception class. Both services are for children who have speech, language and communication needs or a feeding and swallowing difficulty. Children can be referred to our NHS service by a parent, Health Visitor, GP, consultant, nursery or school. If you are unsure about referring you can contact us to talk about your concerns before making a referral. Further guidance about making a referral is available at the end of this leaflet – Appendix One.

*Children with cleft palate or feeding and swallowing concerns are seen at any age (0+ years).

* Children with additional medical/developmental needs alongside speech & language concerns are seen at any age (0+ years).

Please note we are only commissioned to see children who are registered with a North Lincolnshire GP. Children who live or attend school outside of our area, but who have a North Lincolnshire GP, will be offered clinic based appointments.

What to expect:

We offer all children an initial assessment with a registered Speech and Language Therapist within four weeks of referral. Following that initial assessment we will work with you to agree a plan of care for your child. We will provide a written care plan to home and a copy, if required, for nursery/school. We provide early intervention following best practice guidelines. Your child will be discharged if they do not currently require speech and language therapy intervention, please see below.

Children and families may require speech and language therapy if:

1. They are not meeting speech and language milestones for their age/developmental level.
2. They have medical/health needs that impact upon the development of their speech, language and communication skills
3. They are stammering
4. They have no means of communication
5. They have limited/no interaction with other children and/or adults

Information for patients

6. They have difficulties with eating and drinking.
7. There are signs of 'Selective Mutism' e.g. not talking at school or nursery after 6 months of attending.

You don't need to be seen by a Speech and Language Therapist if:

1. Your child is learning English as an additional language and your child is developing normally in their first language.
2. Your child's difficulties are due to limited attention and listening skills or behaviour difficulties.
3. If your child has a known condition or syndrome e.g. Downs Syndrome, Autism, but does not have specific speech and language difficulties.
4. If your child has delayed weaning or limited food preferences or aversions.

Children with an Education and Health Care Plan

If your child has specific speech and language targets on their Education and Health Care Plan we will provide intervention for your child in their Educational setting. We provide updated information for the Local Authority as part of the Education and Health Care Plan process.

For further information about Education and Health Care Plans in North Lincolnshire please follow the web link.

<http://www.northlincslocaloffer.com/faqs/what-is-an-education-health-and-care-ehc-needs-assessment/>

What will happen next:

For children within the **Early Years Service** where speech and language therapy intervention is required you and your child will be offered therapy sessions, either with a Speech and Language Therapist or a Speech and Language Therapy Assistant. These sessions usually take place in clinic/children's centre. This may involve:

- ❖ A one off demonstration session to deliver a pack of work for you or the school/nursery to carry out
- ❖ A workbook for home or school/nursery
- ❖ Weekly/fortnightly speech therapy sessions with you and your child. This will be for a set period of time with specific targets.

Information for patients

What will happen next:

For children within the **Early Years Special Educational Needs Service** where speech and language therapy intervention is required you and your child will be offered therapy sessions, either with a Speech and Language Therapist or a Speech and Language Therapy Assistant. These sessions may be offered at home, or within clinic or nursery settings. Activities and ideas will be shared with parents and setting practitioner to support outcomes agreed for the child.

Your child will be discharged from our service when:

- ❖ Your child's speech and language skills are following normal developmental patterns or are within the normal range for their age.
- ❖ Your child's speech and language skills are in line with their general development and learning.
- ❖ Speech and language is not your child's current primary need e.g. if the referral is relating to behaviour, social communication, attention and listening.
- ❖ Advice and support have been given and you can continue with strategies and activities at home and/or school. We will advise you to refer your child again if they need further intervention.
- ❖ Support strategies are already in place and there is no current evidence about how this is being implemented.
- ❖ Your child does not yet have sufficient attention or self-awareness/motivation for therapy at this time.
- ❖ Functional communication has been achieved.
- ❖ You do not bring your child for their appointments.

Please note: We do not offer a service for children with hearing impairment, where hearing is not aided to normal hearing thresholds.

Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is available on 03033 306518 (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Goole). You can also contact nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

As a Trust we value equality of access to our information and services, therefore alternative formats of this document are available on request at nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net

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Kindness • Courage • Respect

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Appendix One

North Lincolnshire Referral guidance for Early Years children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) 0-5 years

A parent or Early Years professional (e.g. Health Visitor, Early Years Practitioner) identifies a concern about a child's speech, language and communication development or an eating or drinking concern. This concern is discussed with parents. Useful tools include: Progress checker <http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk/progress-checker>

Early Years Practitioners/Health Visiting Team to suggest, implement & support parents with strategies. Please find useful links for parents and Early Years Professionals below:

<http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk/>
<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/>
<https://www.nlg.nhs.uk/services/childrens-speech-language/>
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/look-say-sing-play/?t_id=1B2M2Y8AsgTpgAmY7PhCfg%3d%3d&t_q=look+say+sing+play&tags=language%3aen%2csiteid%3a7f1b9313-bf5e-4415-abf6-

Is the child achieving expected levels in speech and language?

Continue to monitor progress
No referral required

Is the child aged 0-3 years and *not* achieving expected levels for speech, language and communication?

Above advice/strategies to be implemented
For children who have additional medical/developmental needs, a referral to the Early Years Disability SLT service can be made with supporting evidence

Is the child aged 3 years or over and *not* achieving expected levels for speech, language and communication?

Refer directly the NHS SLT service using the attached link to our contact details and referral forms
<https://www.nlg.nhs.uk/services/childrens-speech-language/nlincs/>

Are there are there concerns about cleft palate or eating and drinking?

Refer directly the NHS SLT service using the attached link to our contact details and referral forms
<https://www.nlg.nhs.uk/services/childrens-speech-language/nlincs/>