

Speech & Language Therapy for Children



Department of Health and Social Care

Rheynn Slaynt as Kiarail y Theay



**Isle of Man
Government**

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CHS310

What are Speech and Language Therapists?

Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) work with parents/carers and others to assess if a child has speech and/or language difficulties, communication or eating and drinking difficulties. The therapist will consider the difficulties the child has and the impact these will have on his/her life. If appropriate the therapist will decide how the child can be helped to reach their full potential.

Anyone including parents can refer to Speech and Language Therapy services. Any referral must always be made with the parent's consent.

Speech and Language Therapy services across the Isle of Man are delivered in line with the Island's priorities. The service delivered may change to reflect current staffing levels and resource demands.

Why do Speech and Language Therapists see children?

As communication skills are essential for educational, social and emotional development Speech and Language Therapists work with children and young people who have problems with understanding, expressing themselves and using communication to socialise appropriately.

Who do Speech and Language Therapists work with?

Speech and Language Therapists work in close partnership with the child and their family, education and other health and social care professionals.

Where do Speech and Language Therapists work?

Speech and Language Therapists work in a variety of settings such as nurseries, schools, clinics and sometimes in the home.

What happens when a referral is made to Speech and Language Therapy?

When a referral is received additional information may be gathered and a decision will be made as to the appropriateness and urgency of the referral. The parent/carer will then be sent a clinic appointment. The main clinic is situated in Douglas at the Central Community Health Centre, Westmoreland Road. Appointments may also be available either in the North or South of the island.

How are children assessed?

Assessment may include information gathering from parents, families and other health and social care professionals.

Assessment includes:

- Understanding of spoken language and body language
- Expression through speaking and body language
- Production and use of sounds
- Ability to use language in a social context
- Play skills and parent-child interaction.
- Eating, drinking and swallowing

The decision whether to offer further support from Speech and Language Therapy is based on the outcome of assessment, the impact of the difficulty on the child's life and the likelihood of effecting change at this time.

Following assessment the outcome will be discussed with the parent and a written report will be sent to the parent and the referrer. The therapist may need to share this information with other people for the child's benefit. This will be discussed with the parents.

Interventions (Therapy)

There is a range of possible ways of supporting a child. These will always involve working with and through parents and others such as class-room assistants and nursery workers.

Ways of supporting the child may include one or more of the following:

- Training and advice for parents/carers and other service providers e.g. schools
- Provision of programmes of work and ways of supporting the child in different environments, particularly in school
- Involvement with educational and transition planning
- Direct therapy with a child individually or in a group. This type of therapy will usually take place in a clinic with a parent present

Discharge

The child may be discharged from therapy for one or more of the following reasons:

- Communication potential achieved
- Child not benefiting from therapy at this time
- Child/young person or family do not want to continue with therapy
- Child fails to attend more than one scheduled appointment
- There is no responsible adult (e.g. parent) available to support therapy carryover work

Children can always be re-referred according to the child's changing needs

Further Information

Talking Point is an information resource for parents focussing on speech, language and communication difficulties in children—
www.talkingpoint.org.uk

Speech and Language Therapists are graduate health professionals who must be registered with the Health Professions Council. You can check registration of any Speech and Language Therapist via **www.hpc-uk.org**

The Isle of Man Speech and Language Therapy Department can be contacted during usual office hours on the number detailed below.

This document can be provided in large print
or audio tape on request.



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Printed: May 2016

Review: May 2019

Origination: Speech & Language Therapy

printed by Mannin Group