

How to refer

We have an open referral system.

This means that we will accept a referral from parents, carers, and other professionals as long as the parent has agreed to the referral being made.

Referrals can be made in person, by phone, in writing or by completing the departmental referral form which can be found on the website.

What will happen next?

All referrals are assessed and prioritised by an experienced therapist.

Once a referral is accepted the family will be invited to contact the department to arrange a suitable appointment time for an initial assessment.

Once the assessment is completed options for any further intervention will be discussed and agreed with the child/young person and their family.

Contact details

Integrated Care Services Clinical Directorate

Speech and Language Therapy Department

University Hospital of Hartlepool

Holdforth Road

Hartlepool

TS24 9AH

Telephone: 01429 522717

Fax: 01429 522722

Email: nth-tr.sltadmin@nhs.net

Website: www.nth.nhs.uk/services/speech-language-therapy/children

Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy Service



Who are we?

Speech and language therapists (SLTs) are allied health professionals who work closely with parents, carers and other professionals.

There are nearly 14,000 SLTs in the UK based in a variety of different settings including the National Health Service (NHS), schools, charities and private practice.

All our therapists have completed a degree course and are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). They work alongside our highly skilled Assistant Practitioners to provide a high quality, evidence-based service to meet the needs of children, young people and their families.

The therapists and assistants are well supported by our professional admin team.

Where do we work?

We work in a range of local venues depending on the needs of the child/young person and their family.

This includes community clinics, schools, hospital and clients' own homes.

What do we do?

We provide a service for children and young people, from birth to 19 years old, with speech, language and communication needs or difficulties in eating, drinking and swallowing.

As well as occurring on their own, these difficulties are common in children who have other diagnoses such as autism spectrum disorder, learning difficulties or cerebral palsy.

Speech, language and communication needs might include difficulties in:

- making the sounds needed for your speech to be understood by other people
- putting words and sentences together to ask for something, tell a story or hold a conversation
- making sense of what other people say to you
- understanding and using body language and eye contact

A child or young person might also be:

- stammering, where sounds or words are repeated or a lot of effort is needed to produce them
- avoiding talking in certain situations
- speaking with a persistently unusual voice quality, which might sound croaky, breathy or hoarse

As well as working directly with children and young people we support their families and carers, their teachers and other adults around them. We aim to help children to develop their best possible communication skills, taking into account their individual abilities and needs.

We also aim to help educate the wider population to understand and promote children's language and communication development, and we provide training and support to a wide range of professionals who work with children.