

NUFFIELD PAEDIATRIC SPEECH DISORDERS CLINIC – REFERRAL GUIDELINES

This clinic specialises in developmental speech disorders, with a particular expertise in developmental verbal dyspraxia. Children referred should meet the following criteria:

- **Have a severe or persisting speech sound disorder which is not felt to be due to another condition**
- **Be between 3 and 18 years of age.**
- **Be able to participate in formal assessment, involving naming pictures and imitating sounds.**
- **Have had at least one block of therapy targeting their speech.**
- **Have verbal comprehension skills at a 3 year level on formal assessment, or a three information carrying word level.**
- **Have at least 30 spoken words, used regularly and spontaneously.**
- **Have had an audiogram in the last 3 months.**
- **Have had some assessment of their learning skills e.g. developmental assessment, educational psychology assessment or information /report from school staff. The results of this assessment must be discussed with parents/carers prior to referral.**

Please note that this is not a specialist centre for autism, social communication disorders, stammering, cleft palate or developmental delay, unless there is concern that an additional speech disorder exists. Where another medical, developmental or learning issue is suspected, this should be investigated prior to referring to the Speech Clinic.

Revised referral process

The speech clinic referral form should be completed by the referring speech and language therapist, and returned to us, accompanied by:

- Case history form
- GP letter supporting the referral, along with a GP print off summary
- Relevant medical reports
- Relevant education reports
- SLT reports

Referrals should be posted to:

**Ms Shula Burrows
Consultant Speech and Language Therapist
Nuffield Paediatric Speech Disorders Team
Royal National ENT Hospital Admin Base
Ground Floor North
250 Euston Road
London, NW1 2PG**

Or emailed (via secure email only i.e. nhs.net to nhs.net) to:
uclh.nuffieldpaediatricspeechclinic@nhs.net (marked FAO Shula Burrows)

Please note that, for accepted referrals, appointments will be held at: Nuffield Paediatric Speech Disorders Clinic, Royal National ENT and Eastman Dental Hospital, 47-49 Huntley Street, London, WC1E 6DG

Please be aware that referrals that do not include all the required information will be returned to the referrer. We regret that we are unable to discuss referrals. However, we hope that the referral form and these guidelines will answer any queries. **Referrals are checked by a Speech and Language Therapist, and accepted/rejected on the basis of our referral criteria.**

What happens at the clinic?

The family are seen by an experienced specialist Speech and Language Therapist, and in some cases also by a Consultant in Audiovestibular Medicine. Usually, the doctor will ask about the child's health and development while the speech and language therapist assesses the child's speech (sounds). Please note that we do not assess understanding and use of language in this clinic.

The doctor will examine the child, and he/she may have a hearing test. Following a short break, the doctor and therapist meet with the family to discuss the results of the assessment.

It may be possible to give a diagnosis, although referrers should note that it may not be appropriate to give a diagnosis to very young children, children with very limited verbal language, or children with complex conditions. We may recommend referral for other investigations.

Where possible we will make suggestions about therapy targets, and recommend the level and type of therapy provision we feel a child needs. However, it is the responsibility of the local service to determine how a child's needs are best met. The local speech and language therapist is welcome to come to the clinic, with the parent's permission.

After the clinic

Our speech and language therapist will contact the local therapist by email to give feedback on the assessment. Please make sure we have an email address for the relevant SLT.

We will produce a report including both medical and speech information, which will normally be sent to the referring SLT, GP and the parents. Our report may take up to 6 weeks to complete. We do not produce reports/complete forms for EHCPs or SEND Tribunal hearings. However, parents may submit our reports as evidence. We are unable to attend review meetings or tribunal hearings.

Many children will be discharged from the service following the clinic. However, some will need to be reviewed by the speech and language therapy team, in order to update management advice and monitor progress. We offer limited therapy at this centre to explore therapy strategies and work on specific areas of difficulty. The responsibility for the child's speech and language therapy remains with the local service.

Contacting us

We will notify the referrer and parent/carer at the following points:

- When the referral is accepted/rejected.
- To book an appointment.

Enquiries should be directed to uclh.nuffieldpaediatricspeechclinic@nhs.net (FAO Shula Burrows)