

## Speech and Language Therapy

Speech and language therapists provide support and advice for children from birth to 19 years old. No types of difficulty or disability are excluded as they provide support based on need, not diagnosis.

They support children with one or more of the following difficulties

- unclear speech (speech sounds)
- not understanding what is being said (understanding of spoken language)
- vocabulary and putting words together into sentences (spoken language)
- mixing with other children and adults (social communication skills)
- only speaking in certain situations (selectively mute)
- stammering or stuttering
- hoarse or husky sounding voice
- hearing impairment / deafness.

Speech and language therapists assess children to build up a picture of their skills and find out their exact abilities, difficulties and needs. This may include one or more of the following:

- formal assessments or tests
- informal based play assessments
- watching the child at school or home to see how they communicate or eat / drink
- talking with those who know them best and speaking to other professionals involved in their care.

When the therapist has assessed a child they will liaise with their class teacher and/or teaching assistant to share the most effective way to work with that child. The speech and language therapist will then produce a programme for the teaching assistant to deliver 1:1 or in a small group on a regular basis.