



South Warwickshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Speech and Language Therapy Department

Persistent Speech Sound Difficulties



Information for Parents/Carers

What is a persistent speech sound difficulty?

- * Many children who have speech sound difficulties make good progress with speech therapy and don't need further support once they start school.
- * Some children have a more unusual pattern of speech sound development, which may affect their ability to be understood. This is called a **persistent speech sound difficulty** or disorder. These difficulties may take time to resolve.

How can speech and language therapy help?

- * We will work closely with parents and other adults who see the child on a regular basis e.g. school staff, to work both on your child's speech clarity and their ability to communicate in everyday situations.
- * This may take the form of face to face sessions with your child, small group sessions with other children with similar difficulties, and setting programmes for key adults to carry out under the supervision of the speech therapist.
- * We may need to observe how a child responds to different approaches to therapy to find the right one for your child.
- * Your speech therapist can consult with specialists in persistent speech difficulties within the department for further advice. They will discuss this with you and you will be kept fully informed of the outcome of any assessment.

- * When your child moves up to school, your speech therapist will ensure that there is a careful 'handover' to their speech therapist colleagues.

How Can I Help?

- * Try to be patient with your child and give them time to finish what they are trying to say
- * Encourage your child to use gesture or show you what they mean if you can't understand them. Your speech therapist may also suggest using symbols or Makaton gestures
- * Home-school books can help your child communicate their news and reduce frustration in both home and nursery settings
- * Your child will progress more quickly with regular speech practice. Practising little but often works best!



For further advice/information contact:

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