

Cleft lip and Palate Information Speech & Language Therapy in Warwickshire

Frequently asked questions:

Which professionals will we see? Children born with Cleft lip and palate and their families will see a number of professionals at Birmingham Children's Hospital where the cleft multi-disciplinary team (i.e. surgeons, orthodontists, ENT consultants, specialist SLTs) are based for assessment of the palate function, speech, hearing, eating and drinking.

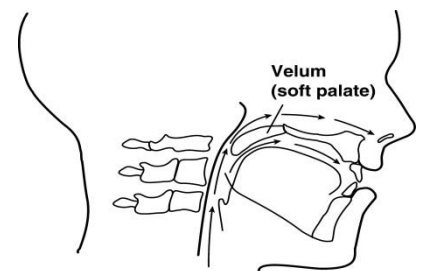
The Speech and Language Therapists at Birmingham Children's Hospital work closely with the Link Speech and Language Therapists in Warwickshire. The Link Speech and Language Therapists have particular expertise in the field of Cleft Palate and see the children at home, in nurseries, in schools and in community clinics.

When do we see the Link Speech and Language Therapist? The link Speech and Language Therapist will see your child for an assessment of their communication at 18 months - 2 years of age following the repair of their palate. Some children who are experiencing difficulties with eating and drinking may be visited by a specialist Speech & Language Therapist before this age.

Your child will then be seen at regular intervals to:

- Identify early communication difficulties
- Monitor babble and pre-speech development
- Advise parents/carers about speech and language development
- Provide Speech and Language Therapy if required. This may be a home programme or individual/group sessions.

Will the cleft lip and palate affect speech? Some children born with cleft lip and palate have no difficulties with speech, but others may need support. Following the repair of the palate, some children need help making certain sounds because they have learnt to use them differently to accommodate for the gap in their palate. Another difficulty that might arise is if the soft palate is not working properly and doesn't make a seal between the mouth and nose. Air can then escape into the nose when speaking which can leave speech sounding nasal.



Will my child be seen when they are older? Our service is able to provide assessment and therapy for children up to the age of 16 years. Your child may be seen by the local Speech and Language Therapist or the Link Speech and Language Therapist. The Link Speech and Language Therapist will provide training and support for local Speech and Language Therapists working with children with Clefts.

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