

Warwickshire Speech & Language Therapy Paediatric Dysphagia Service

(For Children with Eating and Drinking Difficulties)

The Paediatric Dysphagia Service

Is a specialist In-patient and Community Service for children with difficulty in eating, drinking or swallowing. Our service offers support for children from birth through to late adolescence depending on the nature of each child's needs.

Children referred to the Dysphagia Team will be seen by a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) for a full assessment of their eating/drinking and swallowing skills.

The Service we offer

Children are usually seen for initial assessment in the home (or hospital) environment where a case history and mealtime observation/swallowing assessment will be carried out.

Some children may have more complex difficulties. The results of this initial assessment may lead to further investigations such as listening to your child's swallowing sounds using a stethoscope or referring on for an X-ray of the swallowing mechanism. It may also be useful to refer to other professionals for additional assessment and advice such as Dietitian, Physiotherapist, or Ear Nose and Throat Consultant, this will be discussed with you and your specific permission sought if this were felt to be necessary.

Therapy

Therapy will depend entirely on each child's needs and may involve contact with school or nursery settings also. Generally, following a full assessment advice will be given and where appropriate a programme of therapy will be set up which will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Referral to the Paediatric Dysphagia Service

General advice on weaning, picky eating or mealtime behavioural issues is provided by your Health Visitor. The Dysphagia Service is available for children who have more complex eating and drinking needs.

Contact us

If you feel your child may benefit from assessment and support with difficulties they may be experiencing with eating you may refer direct to the Dysphagia Service below. Alternatively, it may be useful to discuss your concerns with your child's Health Visitor, GP or Consultant Paediatrician who are also able to refer your child to the service.

Speech & Language Therapy Dept, Cape Road Clinic, Cape Road, Warwick, CV34 4JP.
Tel: 01926-40001 Ext 265 Fax: 01926-419519