



Early Years (0 – 4) General Referral Guidelines November 2021

Who can be referred?

What does this mean?

What is available?

What info do we need on the referral?

<p>Children over 2 years 4 months with delayed language development</p>	<p>Children who are not saying as much as you would expect for their age. Children do vary but generally a child of 2 years 4 months should be saying at least 20 – 50 words They should also be understanding short sentences such as 'where are your shoes?' 'Put teddy in the box' If the child is learning English as an additional language, this criteria applies to their main home language, not English.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents can access 'Confident Communicators' training online for some general ideas and advice • Parents (or professionals) can refer into the service using the referral form • Parents can access our Drop-in sessions (which are currently via telephone) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can your child point to or get named items for you if you ask? • Is your child saying any words? How many? • Is your child joining words into short phrases? • Will your child point or use gestures to ask for things?
<p>Children over 2 years 4 months with significant social communication difficulties</p>	<p>Children who do not interact with others as you would expect. They may not use much eye contact, they may not use any communication at all. They may be fixed on routines or certain toys or items and become distressed if things change. They may show some repetitive movements such as jumping, spinning or flapping.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents (or professionals) can refer into the service using the Single point of entry referral form • Please also ensure parents (and Early Years setting) have completed the additional questionnaire - see website: Autism Spectrum Disorder - CCHP Community Children's Health Partnership • Parents can access our Drop-in sessions (which are currently via telephone) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your child turn if you call their name? • Does your child include you in their play? • Is there anything your child seems very 'fixed' on? • How is your child communicating with you?
<p>Children over 3 years old with speech sound difficulties</p>	<p>Children whose speech is very difficult to understand. Also children who cannot say particular sounds or use other sounds in their place. It is normal for children to use certain sounds incorrectly up to the age of 7 so if referring a child please be specific about <u>which sounds</u> they are struggling with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We offer 'Sorting out Sounds' session for some general ideas and advice and hope to have this available online very soon • Parents (or professionals) can refer into the service using the referral form • Parents can access our Drop-in sessions (which are currently via telephone) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any sounds your child seems to be unable to say? Please be specific and if possible write how they say the words/sounds instead • Do any family members find it hard to understand your child? • Has your child any history of hearing issues / glue ear? • Can your child communicate with other children?
<p>Children showing possible swallowing difficulties from birth</p>	<p>Children who are coughing when eating or drinking or children who seem to be struggling with eating or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents (or professionals) can refer into the service using the referral form • If unsure, please call the Speech & Language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your child gag frequently on food? • Does your child cough frequently

	drinking and are experiencing recurrent chest infections	Therapy Advice line on a Wednesday morning 07825 016335	during a meal? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it worse with food or fluids? • When did this problem start? • What foods and drinks is your child currently having? • Are there concerns about your child's weight gain? • Does your child have any other medical difficulties/diagnoses?
Children who are stammering (and have been for at least 3 months)	Children who appear to 'stutter' or 'stammer' and have been doing so for at least 3 months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents (or professionals) can refer into the service using the referral form • Parents can access our Drop-in sessions (which are currently via telephone) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long do you feel your child has been stammering? Is it all the time – or more variable? • Are there particular triggers? (tiredness? presence of siblings?)
Children over 12 months with permanent hearing loss	Children who either have cochlear implants or hearing aids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents (or professionals) can refer into the service using the referral form • If unsure, please call the Speech & Language Therapy Advice line on a Wednesday morning 07825 016335 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your child have bilateral hearing aids or a cochlear implant? • Please describe any vocalisation/ words used • Is your child using any signing / other communication means?
Children over 3 years old presenting with 'Selective Mutism'	Children who speak at home but will not speak in their early years setting. They may also have other difficulties with their communication development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents can access 'Confident Communicators' training online for some general ideas and advice • Parents (or professionals) can refer into the service using the referral form • Parents can access our Drop-in sessions (which are currently via telephone) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please describe how much language they use at home compared with in their setting
Children with complex physical / motor / sensory / learning needs	Children who have difficulties in a range of areas – this may include their mobility and co-ordination <u>as well as</u> their communication or eating and drinking – can be referred for an Integrated assessment with Physiotherapy & /or Occupational therapy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents (or professionals) can refer into the service using the referral form • If unsure, please call the Speech & Language Therapy Advice line on a Wednesday morning 07825 016335 to ensure the child will meet the criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please give a brief history and include any diagnoses you are aware of • Please describe how your child is making their needs known at present (any gestures / pointing / consistent sounds etc) • Please comment on how much communication you feel your child understands • Please comment on any eating or drinking difficulties as above