

## Contact details

### Early Years Team

For all enquiries, including:

- Attention difficulties
- Social communication difficulties
- Language delay
- Complex needs
- Stuttering
- Hearing loss
- Speech sound difficulties

### Please contact:

Clinical Navigator  
Leatherhead Clinic  
Poplar Road  
Leatherhead  
Surrey  
KT22 8SD  
01372 384 305

[CSH.childrensclinicalnavigator@nhs.net](mailto:CSH.childrensclinicalnavigator@nhs.net)

For further information and resources please visit:

[www.cshsurrey.co.uk/our-services/service-children/speech-and-language-therapy](http://www.cshsurrey.co.uk/our-services/service-children/speech-and-language-therapy)

Follow us on Twitter: @CSHpaedtherapy



## Need to contact the service?

Please see the Contact details section of this leaflet.

## Your experiences

CSH Surrey is committed to putting people first and continually improving services through listening and responding to feedback. To share your experiences, please:

Call: 01306 646 223

Email: [CSH.Feedback@nhs.net](mailto:CSH.Feedback@nhs.net)

Or write to the Governance Office address below.

## Large print, audio format or another language

Call 01306 646 223

or email [CSH.Communications@nhs.net](mailto:CSH.Communications@nhs.net) to receive this information in large print, audio format or another language.

## General enquiries

Visit [www.cshsurrey.co.uk](http://www.cshsurrey.co.uk) for information and contact details for all other CSH Surrey services.

### A heart in the community

CSH Surrey, proud to be part of the CSH Group. As a social enterprise, CSH makes profit to benefit local communities and to enhance its health and care services.



Quality & Governance Office,  
CSH Surrey, Leatherhead Hospital, Poplar Road,  
Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8SD

Company registered number 5700920



## Social communication

Information and advice for parents, carers and professionals from CSH Surrey Early Years Speech and Language Service

## Better healthcare together

CSH Surrey, providing NHS community nursing and therapy services in the homes, schools, clinics and hospitals in the heart of Surrey since 2006.

## What are social communication skills?

These include:

- Using appropriate eye contact
- Taking turns with another person
- Using correct body language
- Initiating interaction with another person
- Maintaining interaction with another person
- Being aware of another person's feelings and interests
- Being flexible within everyday situations

## How do social communication skills develop?

**18 months:** Can use appropriate eye contact with a familiar person. Enjoy simple turn taking games. Use real objects in play e.g. a brush.

**18 months-2 years:** Seeks Parent's attention. Play alongside other children. Understand basic emotions.

**2-3 years:** Begins to engage with other children. Will share toys with support. Developing imaginative play.

**3-4 years:** Plays with other children. Developing independence. Understands simple rules in a game.

**4-5 years:** Begin to enjoy jokes. Shows empathy towards others.

## How to develop social communication skills

### How to develop eye contact:

Work on eye contact when your child is engaging in other activities. Encourage your child to look at you through using gesture and use social praise such as 'good looking!' when eye contact is made.

Play copying games e.g. do an action and your child has to copy it. Take turns at being the 'leader'.

When your child reaches to request an object, hold the object up to your eyes in order to encourage the use of eye gaze. Once the child has looked at you to request, reward them by giving them the object.

### How to develop turn taking:

Play games that involve clear turn taking with objects e.g. pop up pirate, rolling a ball to each other. Help your child to develop the awareness that they need to wait for their turn. Use a visual turn taking board with each person's name. You could add a photo or picture of the people on the board to aid understanding:

Harry
Mummy
Harry
Mummy

As each person takes their turn, cross off their name. This visual support will help your child's understanding of turns.

### How to develop understanding of emotions:

Some children need support to learn the vocabulary of different emotions. They will need to learn the vocabulary through experiencing it in order to link the feeling with the emotion. If your child is showing a particular emotion, it is important to label it e.g. 'I can see you're happy'. It may also be useful to show the child a visual such as a symbol to support understanding.

### How to develop opportunities for peer interaction:

Aim to take your child to local groups in order to provide them with opportunities to develop their interaction skills.

## Useful links

[www.ican.org.uk](http://www.ican.org.uk)

[www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk)

[www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/family-information-service/support-and-advice-for-parents-and-carers/sure-start](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/family-information-service/support-and-advice-for-parents-and-carers/sure-start)

## What can we do to help your child?

After assessment, the CSH Early Years Speech and Language therapy service can offer advice and training for parents, with therapy as needed, in order to help children to develop early language skills.

For more information or enquiries, please see the contact details section of this leaflet.