

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

For further information and resources please visit:

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

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 to receive this information in large print, audio format or another language.

General enquiries

Visit 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.



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Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8SD

Company registered number 5700920



Speech sound production (Pronunciation)

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 speech sound production skills?

A child's ability to produce the correct consonant and vowel sounds in the correct order in words and sentences. Speech sounds in children develop gradually from birth until about 8 years.

How do speech sound production skills develop?

Children develop these skills over their preschool years. To pronounce words accurately underlying skills including adequate hearing, attention and listening and vocabulary knowledge are required.

Generally it would be expected that by:

2 ½ -3 years: Children will be understood by their main carer.

3 ½ years: Children will be understood by familiar adults (e.g. nursery staff). Developing 's' and 'f' production.

4 years: Children will be understood by unfamiliar adults. Consonant blends such as 'sp', 'tr', 'cl' are often not accurate until children are 4 years old.

Children using a lisp for 's' is common up to 5 ½ years.

The 'ch', 'th', 'r', 'l' and 'j' sounds are often not perfected until children are school-aged.

Difficulties with speech sound production skills

Children are described as having either a 'speech sound delay' where they are making mistakes which are normally seen in younger children or a 'speech sound disorder' where their errors do not match the normal developmental pattern.

Activities to develop with speech sound production skills

- Play listening games where your child must indicate that they can hear the difference between a word they are trying to say and the incorrect word they say instead.
- If your child says 'tea' when they are trying to say 'key' stick a picture of both items to the wall and ask them to run to the one they hear. You may need to give them clues to start with e.g. an action alongside the word.
- Make a bag of items or a scrapbook of pictures that all start with the sound your child is having problems with. The adult should name them to help the child to hear the correct pronunciation. E.g. "sock", "seal"...
- When working on a particular sound start practicing first with the sound on its own, then with a vowel, then in words and sentences e.g. 'sss', then 'sea', then 'sun', then 'yellow sun' etc.

Strategies to promote speech sound production

Ensure your child has had a recent hearing test. Your GP or speech therapist can refer him/her for this.

When your child makes an error repeat the word back accurately to them without asking them to repeat:

Child: Mummy look at the **dea**

Adult: Yes, I can see the **sea**

If you do not understand what your child has said, encourage them to show you what they mean.

Useful links

www.talkingpoint.org.uk/parents/some-children-struggle/difficulties-speech-sounds

www.ican.org.uk/

For Early years settings: www.gov.uk/government/publications/letters-and-sounds

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.