

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.



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

Company registered number 5700920



Attention and Listening

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 attention and listening skills?

A child's ability to:

- Look at another person when they are speaking
- Focus on an activity for a prolonged period of time
- Pay attention to spoken information for long enough to understand it
- Take turns in activities and in conversations.

These skills are the building blocks for language development. Many children with language difficulties also have attention and listening needs. Addressing a child's attention and listening can lead to improvements in their language skills.

How do attention and listening skills develop?

0-1 year: Child's attention is held momentarily until a new stimulus distracts

1-2 years: The child can concentrate for some time on a task of his own choosing

2-4 years: The child can switch attention between a task and a speaker, initially with adult help, then independently

4-5 years: The child can concentrate on spoken instructions whilst engaged in a task.

Strategies to promote attention and listening skills

- Reduce background noise and visual distractions; turn off the TV and Radio
- Make activities short and motivating
- Use short simple instructions to prevent your child from 'switching off'
- Praise good listening behaviours
- Encourage your child to look at you before you speak

Activities to promote attention and listening skills

The aim of these activities is to allow your child to practice their attention and listening skills in an easy and motivating way.

- Play games where you wait until your child looks at you before starting the game e.g. blowing bubbles, taking a scarf from your face and saying 'boo'.
- Take turns with your child to roll a ball or add a brick to a tower. Praise their 'good waiting' and indicate turns e.g. "Ralph's turn", "Mummy's turn".
- Use a car, ball run or pop up toy. Play a game where your child must wait for "go" before activating the toy. Praise their 'good listening'.
- Change character's names in stories to those of friends and family. See if your child can correct you.

Symbols for you to use with your child:



Useful links

www.ican.org.uk

www.talkingpoint.org.uk

www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk

"Once my child's attention was better, he was able to learn words faster and his speech improved."



Mother, Leatherhead area

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.