

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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Understanding words and sentences

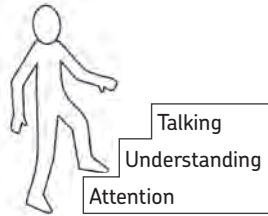
Information and advice for parents, carers and professionals from CSH Surrey Early Years Speech and Language Service

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.

How do children learn to talk?

Before children start to use words they need to have developed some underlying skills. These 'steps' to talking are shown below:



Once children can focus on something for long enough they can start to link words to their meanings. They then start to understand, then use familiar single words (e.g. car, mummy, no).

Most children need to understand two words in a sentence (e.g. "give the apple to teddy" – where there is a choice of foods and characters) before they start to link single words together to form short sentences.

How does understanding of words develop?

18 months: Understands a range of simple naming words e.g. shoe, cow, nose, car

2-3 years: Understands at least 2 words in a sentence e.g. "find mummy's shoes".

3-4 years: Understands at least 3 words in a sentence e.g. "give the big apple to teddy".

Understands basic concept words e.g. big/little and question words.

4-5 years: Understands simple stories adjectives and simple time concepts.

Strategies to help understanding

Before working on a child's understanding it is important to make sure you have their attention. Call their name and wait until they are looking at you to give them an instruction. Remove distractions e.g. turn off the TV.

Use instructions which are the appropriate length – they should be just slightly longer than your child's sentences e.g. if they use single words you would use 1-2 word instructions, if they use two word phrases you would use 3-4 word instructions.

How to help your child to understand single words

- Repetition is the key. Choose a few high interest words to focus on and make sure you use these words many times throughout the day in different situations
- Use gestures to support your child's understanding of words
- Use single words or short phrases when playing with your child
- Play games where your child follows single word instructions e.g. choosing food to feed to a puppet or posting picture cards.

How to help your child to understand sentences

- Use sentences which are just longer than your child's sentences
- Reinforce difficult words e.g. concept words such as 'big' and 'little' with gestures
- Play games where your child must follow a sentence length instruction like "hide teddy under the table". If your child has difficulty, use gesture or break the instruction down until they can follow it correctly then tell them what they have done.

Useful links

www.ican.org.uk

www.talkingpoint.org.uk

www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk

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.