

Pathway 4 Referral Criteria

Speech and Language - Preschool

Please refer to this document before making a referral to the team for a speech and language therapy assessment.

At any age, you can refer a child who presents with one or more of the following:

- Feeding / swallowing concerns.
- Any head injury if there is associated speech and language difficulties
- Any hearing impairment which has a significant loss more than 60db (severe –profound) where there is concern around speech and language development
- Sensory-neural hearing loss/cochlea implant where there is concern regarding speech and language development
- Cleft lip and/or palate. Velopharyngeal dysfunction
- Voice problems e.g. – husky / partial loss of voice
- Any child that appears to have loss of established language or regression in communication skills.
- Genetic disorders where there are associated speech and language difficulties if not in line with cognition
- Global developmental delay if speech and language ability is not in line with cognition
- Neurological disorders where there are associated speech and language /feeding or functional difficulties not in line with cognition

Age Specific Criteria, if the above do not apply:

AGE	LANGUAGE	SPEECH
2;06yrs	<p>Understands and uses less than 20 words alongside the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no response to name • unable to share interest with others including non-verbally • does not use other forms of communication such as pointing or gesture • very limited and excessive repetitive play 	
2;06-3;00yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understands / uses less than 50 words • not able to follow 1 word instruction e.g. “Give mummy the <u>ball</u>” when there is a choice of 2 toys e.g. ball and teddy • not starting to join words together e.g. “teddy jumping” 	<p>It is usual for children to make some speech errors before 3;00yrs old. Unless the child is non-verbal or only has a very limited amount of sounds e.g. 3 please do not refer.</p> <p>Use of unusual nasal sounds and non English sounds such as clicking</p>
3;00 – 4;00yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not using new words and building a bigger vocabulary • not joining 3 words together e.g.” big teddy jumping” • not understanding or using action words e.g. washing / eating / jumping • not being able to follow instructions with 2 key words e.g. “give <u>apple</u> to <u>dolly</u>” when there is an apple, cup, teddy and dolly • any child presenting with stammer/dysfluency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very limited sound system e.g. 5 sounds or uses /d/ sounds for all words • using the wrong vowel sound in a word e.g. car – cer cow- coo • unable to copy a sound when modelled e.g. /p/ /b/ • uses unusual sounds that are not in the English language e.g. clicking sounds

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parents do not understand the child • missing sounds at the beginning of words e.g. car – ar • missing sounds at the ends of words e.g. bed – be • producing the same word in different ways e.g. elephant –elfant efant elegant • says words with 'k' as a 'g' e.g. car -gar • says words with a 't' as a 'd' e.g. tea –dee
4;00yrs +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unable to tell a simple story or hold a basic conversation. • doesn't understand preposition words such as in / under / on • not able to follow 3word level instructions e.g. "Give <u>big</u> <u>banana</u> to <u>dolly</u>" when there is big banana, small banana, big apple, small apple, teddy and dolly • any child presenting with stammer/dysfluency that has persisted for 6 months, or 3 months if there is a family history of stammering. 	

Exclusions

- Children with English as an additional language (EAL) where the first language is developing along normal lines.