

Speech and Language Therapy at School

The Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies (CYPIT) service are a team of occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists and dieticians. We work together to support children and young people across Berkshire, their families and schools. The 'Speech and Language Therapy Service at School' is one aspect of the CYPIT services provided. This service delivers speech, language and communication support in collaboration with school staff, to children attending mainstream schools across Berkshire (with the exception of Slough) from their entry into Reception until they leave school.

The speech and language therapy team work collaboratively with school staff and families, jointly discussing concerns they may have regarding children's speech and language development, exploring how a child's difficulties may be impacting on them at home and in the school environment and sharing 'best hopes' for this child. Support may include providing training and advice to school staff on the best ways to support the communication needs of children within their school, helping children to use their communication skills effectively to support their learning and jointly setting targets to ensure the best outcomes for the child.

We offer three levels of service to manage this;

Universal; the therapist works with school staff so that they are able to identify and manage children's communication needs in the classroom. This includes providing class based strategies and training.

Targeted; the therapist works with staff to train them in the delivery of targeted support, such as small groups. The school staff will then be responsible for maintaining these groups and liaising with parents should their children be considered to benefit from this support.

Individualised; this is for children who have been identified as having a high level of speech, language and communication need and where it has been identified by the parents, school and therapist that more specific input is needed in order to impact on the child's progress. This may include an individualised programme, group, paired or individual sessions. Aims will be decided jointly with parents and school staff and monitored as appropriate.

Should you be concerned about your child's speech and language skills, please share this with your child's teacher or the Special Educational Needs Coordinator at the school and they will then discuss this with the speech and language therapist who visits your child's school. In addition, you may find further support on the online CYPIT toolkit at www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/cypittoolkits.

Should you have any other queries please contact CYPIT Administration, Room 44, Fir Tree House, Upton Hospital, Slough SL1 2BJ **Tel:** 01753 635095