**Speech and Language Therapy for pre-school children**

If there are concerns about a child’s speech and language development, we can offer support through our early advice sessions. These are offered to pre-school aged children.

**Accessing speech and language therapy**

If you have concerns about a child’s speech and language development, you should speak to the parent or carer. Any parent or carer can access support by completing the early advice welcome questionnaire: [www.cambspborochildrenshealth.nhs.uk/SALT/#downloads](http://www.cambspborochildrenshealth.nhs.uk/SALT/#downloads).

You may feel a child needs support from a range of professionals, such as a paediatrician, or SEND services. If so, you may wish to speak to the parent or carer about completing an Early Help Assessment. This will allow them to request support from the speech and language therapy service as well as other services.

**The first appointment**

After the family has completed the early advice welcome questionnaire, they will be given a date, place and time for their child’s first appointment. To begin with, this is likely to be a virtual (online) appointment. For most children this first appointment will be known as an early advice session.

Not all children need to be seen in person. To decide the most appropriate type of intervention, a decision is made according to the individual needs of the child and their family.

**Support for the child**

Each child we see is unique and will have different individual needs. Our support and intervention will be adapted to suit the child. This support is known as an Individualised Package of Support (IPoS). It will be discussed and agreed with the parent or carer before any therapy intervention starts.

**Understanding the IPoS**

After the first appointment, it may be agreed that the best intervention will be providing the parents or carers with ideas to support their child at home. The parents or carers and the child’s setting will then be given advice and strategies to try.

Alternatively, after the first appointment we may feel that the child needs further assessment or input. We will talk to the parents or carers about what the support may look like and how many sessions there will likely be.

We may decide that the child will need more than 1 IPoS. This will depend on their needs and response to any previous intervention.

We will also talk to the parents or carers about their child's readiness for therapy. It is important for them to be involved in their child's therapy. The therapist will talk to the parents or carers about the different ways they can support their child at home.

With the parent or carer’s permission, we will work together with the child's setting to enable the staff to carry out our recommendations and strategies in the most appropriate way for the child.

**After the appointment**

We do not routinely write reports, but we can provide a Report of Involvement if required. This may be produced after an assessment or after a completed IPoS. The report will be shared with parents, carers and the setting.