

# Bury Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy

## Information for parents ahead of your child's first appointment

### What is speech and language therapy?

Speech and language therapy (SLT) is a specialist service that can help support your child's speech, language and communication development, by working with you as their parents or guardian.

SLT does not provide an instant fix for a child's difficulty, but helps to find ways of supporting development and positive change. We will provide you with activities and strategies to do at home inbetween appointments.

SLT is more successful when these are carried out regularly with an adult at home or in school. We offer specialist information and advice to give you the skills and confidence to successfully support your child's needs for the future.

### What happens next?

Once your child's referral has been accepted, you will be added to the waiting list and a letter will be sent within 18 weeks with the date, time and location of your initial appointment.

Your child will then be offered an initial assessment appointment which will last between 30 minutes and an hour.

The speech and language therapist will assess your child's speech, language and communication skills using a range of toys and pictures.

They will discuss their findings with you along with your own views of your child's abilities and difficulties. These will be used to decide the next steps, which could include onward referral or discharge as appropriate.

## How can you help?

- Please contact us on 0300 323 3316 if you change your GP or any contact details (telephone and address)
- You will receive a case history form with your first appointment letter, please complete this before the appointment and bring it along with you. This will allow the therapist to spend more time getting to know you and your child.
- Please arrive in plenty of time as parking at the clinics can be difficult.
- We do not have crèche facilities and some of our clinic rooms are small, so where possible please make alternative childcare arrangements for siblings.
- If you cannot attend your appointments please let us know as soon as possible on **0300 323 3316**.
- For more information about the service please visit:  
[www.pat.nhs.uk/bury-community-paediatric-speech-and-language-therapy-services.htm](http://www.pat.nhs.uk/bury-community-paediatric-speech-and-language-therapy-services.htm)

## Useful Links

You may find the following website links useful for ideas / strategies to try with your child prior to your appointment.

[www.ican.org.uk/](http://www.ican.org.uk/)  
[www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk)  
[www.stammering.org](http://www.stammering.org)

## What if my child cannot or does not attend?

If you cannot attend your appointment for any reason please inform us by contacting the Single Point of Access on **0300 323 3316**. Our bookings team will be able to rearrange the appointment for you.

**Please note that if you miss an arranged appointment slot without letting us know your child will be discharged.**