

About CLCH NHS Trust

The speech and language therapy service is provided by Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust.

For more information visit
www.clch.nhs.uk

Complaints and compliments: If you would like to comment on the services we provide please tell the SLT or you can contact the Trust's Customer Service team on 0800 368 0412 or clchpals@nhs.net.

This information was checked in
May 2020

Please contact us for more information
on: **020 7266 8777**

Or email us at: clcht.chirp@nhs.net

Our clinics are:

**South Kensington & Chelsea/
Hammersmith and Fulham:**

Cheyne Child Development Service

Doughty House, Chelsea and
Westminster Hospital, 369 Fulham Road,
SW10 9NH

**Parkview Centre for Health and
Wellbeing,**

Cranston Court, First Floor, 56
Bloemfontein Road,
London. W12 7FG

**North Kensington and Chelsea
Westminster:**

The Medical Centre

7e Woodfield Road
London W9 3XZ

Bessborough Street Clinic

1 Bessborough Street
London SW1V 2JD

Early Years
Speech and Language
Therapy

Eating and Drinking Difficulties



What to expect
from our service

Speech and Language Therapists support children who have difficulties with eating and drinking e.g. chewing, difficulty progressing through textures or signs your child may have difficulty swallowing (e.g. coughing when drinking, recurrent chest infections) . We do not see children who are fussy eaters or who have sensory issues around eating and drinking

Referral: When your child is referred to us, we aim to see them within 2 weeks. We will call/write to you to determine if we need to offer an appointment.

We offer appointments during standard working hours. Whilst there is some flexibility, your child may need to be taken out of nursery in order to attend.

Initial appointment: Your 1st appointment will be an assessment session. The speech and language therapist will gather information regarding your child's eating and drinking development.

The assessment lasts approximately 45 minutes. You may be asked to bring food and drink for your child to have during the appointment. At the end of the session, there will be time to discuss the findings and agree a plan.

After this the therapist will write a report with a summary of your child's skills. The therapist may share the report with key professionals (e.g. GP, nursery).

Not all children will need on-going support from SLT, advice may be given and your child may be discharged.

Further appointments:

If it is felt your child would benefit from further advice and intervention, a follow up appointment will be made. We will set goals of what to work on and show you strategies to support your child to achieve their goal.

A report and care plan with specific recommendations and strategies may be written and shared with key people caring for and working with your child. This will help support your child to remain safe when eating and drinking and achieve targets in a variety of contexts.

Referrals to other specialities may be recommended and discussed, for example videofluoroscopy or paediatrics.

There are a number of Speech and Language Therapists working within the team. You may be seen by any of these therapists.

Children are discharged from the SLT service where they are making the expected progress and strategies are in place for two consecutive appointments. Children may also be discharged where appointments are not attended.

Expectations:

Children's feeding skills are best developed with the people who are most familiar to them, and in everyday situations. We can support you to do this.

To achieve this we will require you to:

- Be on time. We will be unable to see your child should you arrive more than 10 minutes late.
- Contact the clinic to let us know if you are unable to attend a session as soon as possible. It is not always possible to re-schedule cancelled appointments.
- Practise therapy ideas regularly and follow recommendations between sessions.
- Ensure that someone with parental responsibility gives consent to the assessment and treatment of your child.

We will contact you if you miss an appointment to check you still require input from our service.

We will offer you the first available appointment. If you are unable to attend and request a different date or time, you may have to wait longer.

We look forward to working with you and your child.