

## Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Division

**CHILDREN'S SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICE****SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST FOR EARLY YEARS SETTINGS – SEPTEMBER 2011**

Please look at the part of the checklist appropriate to the age of the child that you are assessing. The boxes on the left describe speech and language skills that are not a cause for concern, and strategies from the EYFS should be used to support ongoing development. The boxes on the right describe possible causes for concern and a **consultation with a Speech and Language Therapist should be considered**.

If a child's speech is unintelligible (meeting the 'possible cause for concern' criteria), or if the child stammers, please refer directly to the Speech and Language Service.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Parental consent **MUST** be obtained in order to request a consultation with a Speech and Language Therapist or to make a referral.

If you are an education or other professional, written consent is essential.

AGE 2 YEARS			
NOT A CAUSE FOR CONCERN		POSSIBLE CAUSE FOR CONCERN	
	Good pretend play	Little pretend play or play is repetitive	
	Some words and jargon Attempting some words and vocalising consistently	Saying fewer than 10 words	
	Can follow short instructions.	Does not appear to understand what you say	
	Enjoys socialising with family members	Little interest in surroundings or social communication	
	Some speech understood by close family		

AGE 2 ½ YEARS			
NOT A CAUSE FOR CONCERN		POSSIBLE CAUSE FOR CONCERN	
	Single word vocabulary of approx 50+ words and parents report progress.	Few / no words	
	Regularly linking two words. Three word phrases starting to emerge.	Not joining words together	
	Following simple conversation.	Does not appear to understand what you say	
	Some speech understood by close family.	Using made up signs / gestures instead of speech to communicate	
		Only using one consonant sound, e.g. uses h to replace most consonants	
		Sometimes stutters/stammers	

<b>AGE 3 YEARS</b>			
<b>NOT A CAUSE FOR CONCERN</b>		<b>POSSIBLE CAUSE FOR CONCERN</b>	
	Joining 3+ words into sentences	Using single words and joining 2 words together.	
	Speech can be understood most of the time by family members.	Family members find speech difficult to understand for most of the time.	
	Can share a game/look at books with an adult	Hardly ever lets adult share play/join in with play	
	Interested in playing with other children	Little or no interest in playing with other children	
		Only using one consonant sound, e.g. uses h to replace most consonants	
		Sometimes stutters / stammers	

<b>AGE 3 ½ - 4 YEARS</b>			
<b>NOT A CAUSE FOR CONCERN</b>		<b>POSSIBLE CAUSE FOR CONCERN</b>	
	Using long sentences.	Not using a range of short sentences.	
	Stays at activities for longer, more accepting of adult direction	Hardly ever responds to adult suggestion in play	
	Sounds t and d used for c/k and g e.g. coat → toat, girl → dirl		
	t sound used for s e.g. sun → tun, house → hout.		
	Consonant 'blends' reduced e.g. spider → paider, dress → dess.		
	Speech usually understood by family, but strangers struggle	Speech often difficult to understand.	
	Fricative sounds used (f, g, v, s, z, sh) may not be used yet.	Missing of beginnings of words e.g. car – ar	
	Consonant blends still developing e.g. spot → pot, blue → bue/lue, green → reen/geen → drink/brink		
	Sounds t and d used for c/k and g e.g. coat → toat, girl → dirl teddy → keggy, dog → gog		
	Interdental 'lisp' e.g. sun → thun or 'slushy' s sound	Only using one consonant sound, e.g. uses h to replace most consonants	
	'r' and 'l' replaced by 'w' e.g. red → wed, lip → wip	Sometimes stutters/stammers	
	Able to make friendships with other children	Difficulties making friendships with other children.	

**AGE 4 ½ - 5 YEARS**

<b>NOT A CAUSE FOR CONCERN</b>		<b>POSSIBLE CAUSE FOR CONCERN</b>	
	Using long sentences but some immature grammar e.g. brokeed, comed etc	Not using sentences	
	Speech understood most of the time.	Speech always difficult to understand	
	Interdental 'lisp' e.g. sun → thun or 'slushy' s sound		
	Sounds such as sh, ch, j, r, th, y not used clearly e.g. shoe → soo/doo, chair → tair, yellow → lellow		
	Consonant blends (e.g. tr, fl, st, sm) but not always used clearly e.g. flower → fwower, stop → top/dop	The sounds t, d, c/k, g, f, s not yet used correctly at 5+ of age.	
	Able to make and sustain friendships	Finding difficult to make and sustain friendships	
		Sometimes stutters / stammers	