**PAEDIATRIC SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY**

**REFERRAL FORMS SUPPORTING DOCUMENT**

Please remember that when completing the referral from for a child you are considering their developmental level **not** their chronological age.

**EXCLUSION CRITERIA FOR REFERRAL**

Please be aware that referral’s to the service concerning the difficulties listed below will not be accepted:

**EXCLUSION CRITERIA:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NATURE OF DIFFICULTY** | **FURTHER DETAILS** | **SIGNPOSTING** |
| **Tongue Tie** | Where there is no family history of feeding or talking difficulties.If you are concerned about your child’s tongue tie in relation to feeding difficulties please make a referral. |  |
| **Developmental Delay** | Where the child’s skills are within 12 months of their chronological age | Paediatrician |
| **Lisp** | Unless the child is concerned regarding the lisp and has motivation to change their talking. |  |
| **Selective Mutism** | Where there is no evidence of underlying speech and language difficulties | Educational PsychologyCognition & Learning Team |
| **Reading & writing difficulties** | Where there is no evidence of underlying speech and language difficulties | Educational PsychologyCognition & Learning Team |
| **General Learning Difficulties** | If the child’s speech and language skills are broadly in line with their general learning levels/ ability, even if this is below the child’s chronological age, we will not accept a referral.If you feel that a child with generalised learning difficulties has problems understanding and/ or using language significantly above or below their developmental/ learning levels, we will accept a referral, with an accompanying report from an Educational Psychologist. Children who fall within Range 1 provision on the SEN guidance for children with speech, language & communication needs will not be seen by the service.  | Educational PsychologyCognition & Learning TeamELKLAN training for schools/ nurseriesTraining courses run by the SLT department |
| **Bilingual Children** | Where there are no concerns in the child’s home language development |  |
| **Voice** | Without previously being seen by ENT. Parents/ carers may need to ask their GP to do this on their behalf | ENT |

**OUTCOMES OF THE REFERRAL:**

Please note that referrals will not be accepted if all sections of the referral form (except those that are not applicable) are not completed.

Referrals will also be returned to the referrer if supporting documents from nurseries, schools and other professionals are not provided.

We aim to see children with 18 weeks of the referral being received.

There are several possible outcomes from the referral:

1. The referral is returned to the sender as not enough information has been provided.
2. The referral is rejected as the referral is not appropriate.
3. The child’s parents/ school or nursery staff are invited to attend a Parent Advice Group where information, advice and strategies will be discussed to support the child’s speech and language development.
4. The child and their parent will be invited to attend a series of group sessions where assessment, advice and therapy will be provided targeting the child’s specific difficulty.
5. The child will be invited to attend a specialist assessment session where further assessment will be completed and further input decided on.

*FOR THE ATTENTION OF SCHOOLS:*

Please be aware that if upon completion of assessment it is decided that a child falls within Ranges 1 or 2 of provision on the SEN guidance for children with Speech, Language & Communication Needs, they will be discharged from the service with appropriate advice for school and parents.

**RE-REFERRAL CRITERIA:**

A re-referral will not be accepted if:

1. The child has been discharged within the last 6 months and there are no fresh concerns.
2. The child has failed to attend 3 appointments – unless the referrer agrees to attend the appointment with the child. If the child has missed 1 or 2 appointments a referral will be accepted but we ask the referrer to do their best to ensure and support attendance where possible.
3. The previous Speech & Language Therapist has outlined a likely ‘prognosis’ and a specific re-referral criteria e.g. a change in school, child’s motivation to change, anxiety levels of parents, targets achieved, significant deterioration in the child’s behaviour.