

### **Our Contact Details:**

Speech & Language Therapy  
Paediatric SPA  
The Medical Centre  
7e Woodfield Road  
London

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020 7266 8777

[clcht.chirp@nhs.net](mailto:clcht.chirp@nhs.net)

### **Missed Appointments**

- 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.
- Your child may also be discharged where appointments are not attended and there has been no contact with the service.

### **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](http://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](mailto:clchpals@nhs.net)



Central London  
Community Healthcare  
NHS Trust

**Speech and Language  
Therapy**

**Paediatric Dysphagia  
Service**

## **What To Expect From Our Service**



### **What is dysphagia?**

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 for urgent referrals. We will call you gather more information to determine if we need to offer an appointment.

We offer appointments during standard working hours, the appointment will most likely to take place in clinic or at your child's school. We also offer some appointments at home or virtually where needed.

### **Initial appointment:**

Your first 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 will share the report with key professionals (e.g. GP, school, nursery) with your consent. 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 to keep your child safe when eating and drinking, 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 make progress.

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, Ear Nose and Throat, Respiratory, Gastroenterology or Child Development Service.

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 service where they are making the expected progress towards their goals and safety at mealtimes is managed for two consecutive appointments.

### **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 Speech and Language Therapy team 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 to keep your child safe at mealtimes.
- Ensure that someone with parental responsibility gives consent to the assessment and treatment of your child.

We look forward to working with you and your child.