

Craniofacial Unit

Speech and Language Therapy

Information for patients



What is a speech and language therapist?

Speech and Language Therapists, or SLTs as you may hear us being called, work with children and young adults with communication and/or feeding difficulties. We offer support for children who have problems with:

- attention and listening skills
- understanding instructions
- putting words together
- using the right speech sounds so that they can make themselves understood
- interacting with other children and understanding social rules
- feeding and swallowing
- communicating verbally

When will I see the speech and language therapist?

When you come to the Craniofacial Unit on a Tuesday for an appointment with the different members of the clinical team, you will also see the team SLT. If your child has particular speech and language needs, or if you have any concerns that you would like to discuss in more detail, we will be happy to see you separately.

What will the speech and language therapist do?

- Check whether you have any concerns about your child's communication skills, hearing or feeding.
- Assess your child's communication skills, if appropriate.
- Discuss with you whether your child needs to be referred to local services: for example, to your local SLT for further assessment and / or therapy; to audiology for hearing problems; or to a paediatrician - a doctor who specialises in looking after children.
- Your local SLT may suggest using signing/hand signals if your child has difficulty with communicating verbally
- Liaise with your local services, e.g. Health Visitor, SLT, teachers, about your child's needs - with your consent
- Answer your questions or address your concerns

How to contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's communication or feeding skills, please contact:

Zoe Gordon or Carrie Luscombe

Craniofacial Team Speech and Language Therapists

Speech and Language Therapy

Level LG1 Children's Outpatients

John Radcliffe Hospital

OXFORD OX3 9DU

www.oxford-craniofacial.org

Tel: (01865) 234042

e-mail: zoe.gordon@orh.nhs.uk or carrie.luscombe@orh.nhs.uk

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

Zoe Gordon and Carrie Luscombe
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