



Children & Family Health Devon

Information for parents

**SPEECH & LANGUAGE
DEVON**

Children and Family Health Devon – drop-in sessions and support Aimed at **parents/carers**

Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD) provides a range of services for children from birth to 18 years. These include:

- support for early communication skills,
- training in settings/schools,
- assessments and therapeutic interventions for children and young people having difficulties with language, speech sounds, fluency, voice and dysphagia (swallowing difficulties).

If you would like to speak to a Speech and Language Therapist about your child's communication, speech or language, or if you have concerns about swallowing difficulties, please ring the CFHD advice line on 0333 321 9448 between 2-4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Alternatively, if you have a child under 3 and would like to speak to a Speech and Language face to face you can attend the virtual drop-in service.

Families can find lots of information about supporting children and young people's language development on the following websites and social media:

- [BBC Tiny Happy People website](#)
- [Hungry Little Minds website](#)
- [CFHD website](#)
- [CFHD Twitter](#)
- [CFHD Facebook page for pre-school children](#)
- [CFHD Facebook page for school-aged children](#)

MIND YOUR WORDS

Available for parent/carers and professionals

Mind Your Words is a free e-learning tool that aims to improve the understanding of children and young people who have both mental health (or SEMH) needs and SLCN.

The tool is designed for professionals working with children and young people, and Mind Your Words training is available on the RCSLT website

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Devon's health visiting team offer contacts to all families at key transitional times, from antenatal to five years.

The team promote the understanding and development of language and communication during all contacts, while working in partnership with Early Years settings to provide a joined up approach to supporting children's developmental progress – ensuring that parents receive consistent messages and advice and have access to the right support at the right time. Additionally, the team works closely with providers to help inform planning based on needs and to identify families who may benefit from additional support.

Families can find lots of information about supporting children and young people's language development on the following websites:

- Health for Under 5s – for healthy happy early years
- Health for Kids – health advice to help your children grow and flourish.
- Health for Teens – a new and different way for young people aged 11-19 to learn about their health

Young Devon is running workshops that will cover the following:

- **What is speech, language and communication?**
- **What do young people need to understand and to be understood?**
- **How can I improve the communication between me and my young person?**
- **How do I improve the understanding of what is going on for my young person when they disengage or behave in a way that I find challenging?**

Each workshop will cover these questions, and others, to explore your experiences and those of young people you know.

Alongside this, Young Devon is developing a series of short videos that will be shown during the workshops; these videos feature young people sharing their lived experiences. The aim of this is to ensure that children and young people's voices are heard about the consequences of living with SLCN, how it affects them, any negative life outcomes and what helped them.

Parents, carers and professionals are invited to attend a workshop to address these questions and to consider your own experiences and those of young people you know. You should leave with a raised awareness of how the way we talk can change how young people think about themselves and their environment for the better and can improve life outcomes.

For further information, including dates, please contact Paul on 07593 583356 or by emailing paul.vivian@youngdevon.org.