

Referral Criteria for communication | Early Years | 3:0 – 4:11 years

- ❖ Please note that any description is based on the child’s use of their home or main language
- ❖ Refer to audiology if concerns about hearing.
- ❖ Refer to Paediatrician if concerns about interaction.

3 years – 3:6 years				
Referral guidance	Understanding	Talking	Speech sounds	Social interaction
Referral not required at this time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands simple questions using ‘who?’ ‘what?’ ‘where?’ in the ‘here and now’ e.g “where is the spade?” “who’s got the bucket?”. • Understands concepts such as: size (big/little) and position (on/under). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly learning and using new words. • Using at least 3-4 words together in simple sentences. • Starting to take part in conversation, initiating and asking questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still some sound substitutions e.g car > “dar”, spoon > “boon”, train > “tain”, sun > “dun”. • Speech can generally be understood by familiar adults. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning to take turns in structured games with some adult support. • Initiates interaction with known adults and peers. • Keeps play going by responding to what others are saying or doing.
<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development.</p> <p>Please follow links on our website for advice and monitor progress.</p>	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the red criteria.	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the red criteria.	<p>Concerns in this area but not meeting red criteria.</p> <p>Setting staff cannot always understand what the child says.</p>	Some concerns in this area but not meeting red criteria.

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<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development. Please follow links on our website for advice, monitor progress and then Refer to Speech & Language Service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to follow simple two key word instructions e.g show me mummy's eyes, show me daddy's shoes. • Does not understand action words e.g eat, run, sleep, cry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not able to make their basic needs known. • Not joining words into 2-word phrases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misses off or changes early consonant sounds i.e 'b', 'm', 'n' 'w', 'p' in words such as 'more' 'ball' 'Peppa' 'nose' 'water' • Parents cannot understand what the child says. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not showing enjoyment in adults' attempts to join in their play. • Not showing enjoyment in other children's attempts to join in with their play. • Not using gestures to get their needs met or interact (e.g pointing at something they want, waving goodbye). • Not pointing things out that interest them or bring things to show an adult. • Doesn't look when an adult points to an object that they can both see.
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3:6 years – 4 years				
Referral guidance	Understanding	Talking	Speech sounds	Social interaction
Referral not required at this time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning to follow longer instructions (e.g “give the blue cup and plate to Frankie”). Understands simple questions using ‘who?’ ‘what?’ ‘where?’ in the ‘here and now’ e.g “where is the spade?” “who’s got the bucket?”. Understands concepts such as size (big/little) and position (on/under). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using phrases with more words e.g “I want big biscuit now”. May be beginning to use more complex sentences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiar adults can generally understand the child. Still some sound errors e.g car > “dar”, spoon > “boon”, train > “tain”, sun > “dun”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning to share. Beginning to interact with peers during play.
<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development.</p> <p>Please follow links on our website for advice and monitor progress.</p>	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the ‘red’ criteria.	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the ‘red’ criteria.	Some concerns in this area but not meeting red criteria. Less familiar adults cannot always understand what the child says	Some concerns in this area but not meeting red criteria.

<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development.</p> <p>Please follow links on our website for advice, monitor progress and then Refer to Speech & Language Service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only able to follow two key word instructions and longer instructions need breaking down or need to be visually supported. • Unable to understand simple questions using 'who?' 'what?' 'where?' in the 'here and now' e.g "where is the bike?" "who's got the ball?". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not able to make their needs known. • Only using simple two-three word phrases. • Lack of action words. • Using words in wrong order in a sentence. • Can't name everyday items correctly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misses off or changes early developing consonant sounds i.e 'b', 'm', 'n' 'w', 'p' in words such as 'more' 'me' 'ball' 'book' 'Peppa' 'nose' 'water'. • Familiar adults cannot understand what the child says. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not showing enjoyment in adults' attempts to join in their play. • Not showing enjoyment in other children's attempts to join in with their play. • Not using gestures to get their needs met or interact (e.g pointing at something they want, waving goodbye). • Not pointing things out that interest them or bring things to show an adult. • Doesn't look when an adult points to an object that they can both see.
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4 years – 4: 11years				
Referral guidance	Understanding	Talking	Speech sounds	Social interaction
Referral not required at this time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. Beginning to answer questions about stories e.g 'how does goldilocks feel?' 'what will she do next?' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to talk about recent past events. Beginning to connect ideas and events using 'linking' words to join phrases (e.g "mummy buy me ice-cream and it yummy"). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech can be understood most of the time by most people. Still some sound errors with later developing sounds (i.e sh, ch, l, r, th) and when two sounds come together (e.g train > "tain", spoon > "poon"). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confident to talk to other children when playing. Beginning to understand and use humour.
<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development.</p> <p>Please follow links on our website for advice and monitor progress.</p>	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the red criteria.	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the red criteria.	<p>Some concerns in this area but not meeting the red criteria.</p> <p>Sound substitutions with middle sounds.</p>	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the red criteria.
<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development.</p> <p>Please follow links on our website for advice, monitor progress and then Refer to Speech & Language Service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not able to join in with a simple conversation about the 'here and now' e.g "what are you doing?" "where is all the sand going?" "who needs the spade now?" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not able to join in with a simple conversation about the 'here and now' i.e talk about what is happening using simple sentences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Misses off or changes early developing consonant sounds i.e 'b', 'm', 'n' 'w', 'p' in words such as 'more' 'ball' 'Peppa' 'nose' 'water'. Misses off the ends of words e.g bun > "bu", nose > "no". Familiar adults cannot understand what the child says. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not showing enjoyment in others' attempts to join in their play. Motivated to interact but struggles to initiate and maintain interactions with others causing social isolation.

