

Speech and Language Therapy in SEN Schools

The Northumbria Healthcare Speech and Language Therapy Team support children who are educated in special educational provision in Northumberland and North Tyneside. We support children with difficulty communicating effectively and/or eating, drinking and swallowing.

The Speech and Language Therapy Team...



➔ **1) Assess** children's understanding of language and the world around them as well as how they communicate with others. This can include using spoken words, sounds, gestures, objects, pictures, and sign language. We also assess their physical eating, drinking and swallowing skills.

We do this by:



talking to their parents/carers



talking to other professionals



observing and working 1:1 with children at school, and sometimes at home



➔ **2) Work closely with school staff** and other professionals to ensure the whole school environment is communication friendly. This can include using objects, pictures, signs and symbols alongside spoken words.



➔ **3) Provide specialist advice** to parents/carers and to school staff, who will support children's communication across the school day. This is both in the classroom and across the wider school environment.

➔ **4) Work with children 1:1** for episodes of care as they develop new communication skills, such as using alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) systems, or practising their speech sounds.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's speech, language, communication and/or swallowing, you can contact the Speech and Language Therapy Team by calling 0191 297 9019 (Northumberland) or 0191 297 9031 (North Tyneside).