



10 STEP GUIDE TO SPEECH THERAPY FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

So your child may need speech therapy... what next?

BEFORE THE ASSESSMENT

1. Contact a few different services to work out which clinic will be the best fit for your child. Weigh up factors such as the location of the clinic, fee schedules as well as testimonies from other families who have accessed the service.
2. Discuss your concerns with a speech pathologist. The speech pathologist will be able to identify whether your child requires a speech pathology assessment based on the background information you have provided.
3. Book an appointment! Sometimes the first step can be the hardest. To make an informed decision regarding your child's development, you may benefit from a professional assessment by a qualified speech pathologist who can provide you with objective information to guide your decision making process.

AFTER THE ASSESSMENT

4. Does my child need therapy? Review the assessment results with your speech pathologist and work this out. Some children require an immediate start to therapy, whereas others may need a short period of monitoring at home before commencing therapy.

STARTING THERAPY

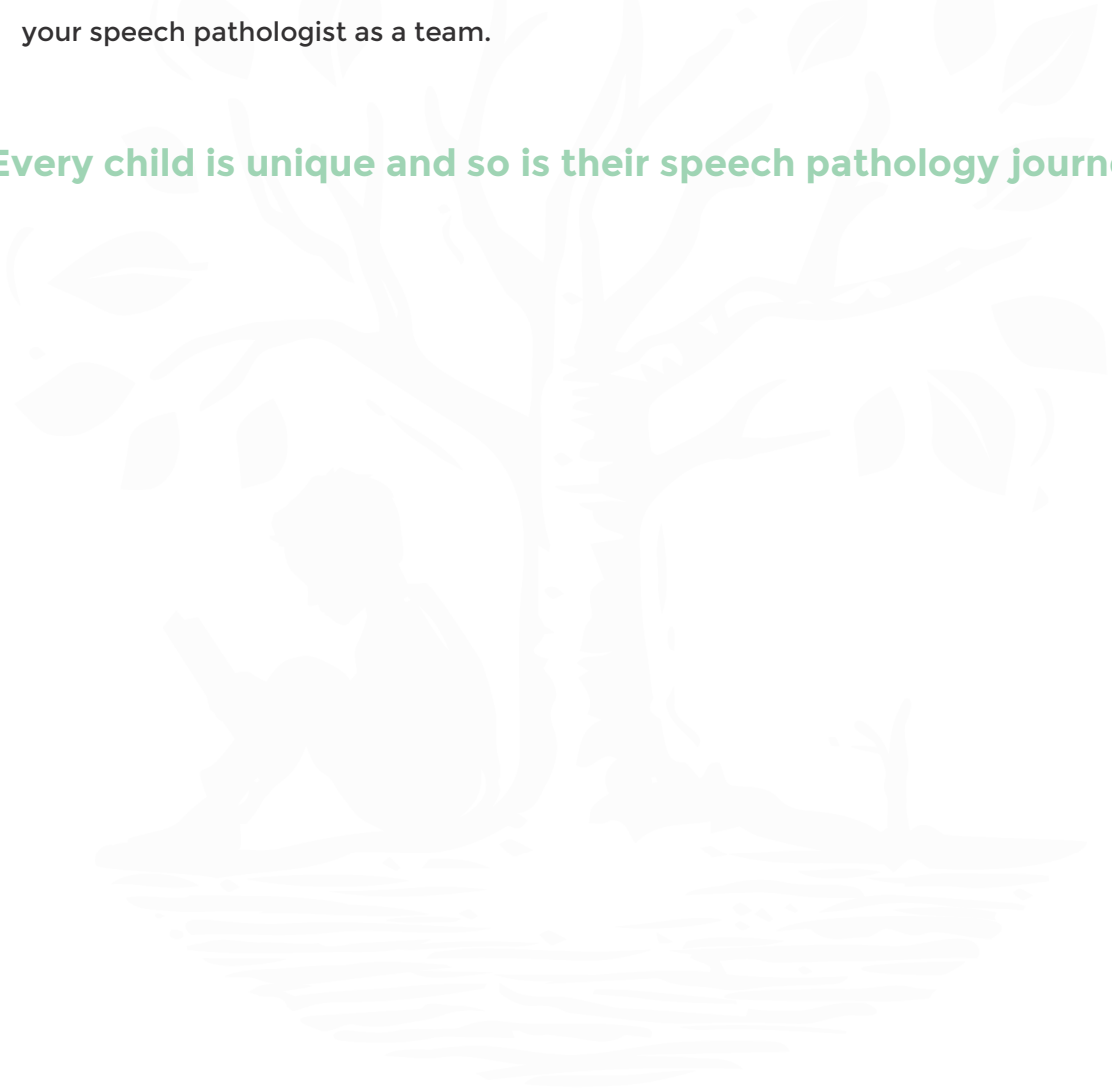
5. Understand that there is no magical formula to ensure success when it comes to speech therapy. Consistency is the only key to speech therapy success. Attend your appointments regularly and do your homework to ensure that your child progresses as quickly as possible in therapy.
6. Ask questions! Be honest with your speech pathologist about any issues that may be impacting your child's therapy plan. We are here to help! Don't be afraid to ask for updates. It's important for parents to be aware of their child's short and long term therapy goals, so that you can identify whether or not your child is on track.
7. Have fun and allow your child to develop a sense of ownership over their therapy plan. Children who are informed and involved tend to be more willing to participate in therapy.



Help your speech pathologist by mentioning your child's likes and dislikes, which can then be incorporated into therapy sessions.

8. Explain clearly and openly to your child why they are attending speech therapy. Your speech pathologist will also assist you with this during your child's therapy sessions.
9. Show your child videos and pictures of other children attending therapy. They will appreciate seeing others in the same situation. Review case studies so that you have an idea of what to expect over the course of your child's treatment.
10. Understand that the process of speech pathology from the assessment - therapy - reassessment - therapy - discharge can be a lengthy process. Pace yourself and your child to ensure that you approach therapy with realistic and achievable goals. Work with your speech pathologist as a team.

Every child is unique and so is their speech pathology journey.





SPEECH, LANGUAGE & LITERACY CHECKLIST

Tick where appropriate and please consider referral to Kids' Speech Therapy for an assessment

Call us today on 0420 609 981 for a free fifteen minute phone consultation

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

- Has trouble clapping/counting syllables in spoken words
- Doesn't understand or enjoy rhyme
- Struggles to link letters to their sounds

SPEECH PRODUCTION

- Substitutes sounds in words e.g. fing for thing, wabbit for rabbit
- Has trouble saying long or difficult words e.g. hippopotamus, specific, hypothesis
- Confuses similar sounding words with another e.g. empty/entry
- Makes frequent spoonerisms by mistake e.g. "boo blottle" for "blue bottle"
- Has difficulty with tongue twisters e.g. "she sells sea shells"

WORD FINDING

- Shows poor memory of classmates names
- Uses lots of "ums" "ahs" and pauses
- Frequently uses unspecific words e.g. things, stuff, it, what you call it
- Struggles to retrieve specific words e.g. calls a zebra a horse
- Shows difficulty remembering word sequences e.g. months of the year, alphabet

RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE

- Has trouble understanding and following instructions, requiring frequent repetition of commands
- Responds to only part of questions or instructions
- Has trouble predicting outcomes
- Struggles with spatial concepts e.g. left and right, above and below, in front and behind
- Has trouble understanding age appropriate stories

EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE

- Makes errors in grammar e.g. "she falled over" instead of "she fell over"
- Demonstrates small vocabulary e.g. uses bad to mean naughty, mean, angry, insulting
- Struggles to explain or give instructions
- Stories are incomplete or confusing
- Uses short sentences and without detail
- Struggles to stay on topic or turn take in conversation



REFERRAL FORM

CLIENT'S DETAILS

Child's name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Parent's name: _____

Email: _____

Concerns - please tick as appropriate:

- Speech sound production
- Auditory comprehension
- Grammar
- Sentence structure
- Vocabulary

- Fluency
- Reading
- Spelling
- Social skills

CONSENT

As my child's parent/carer, I authorise Kids' Speech Therapy to provide Speech Pathology services for my child (child's name) _____ at either the clinic based in Sunnybank or at school during school hours as deemed suitable by the classroom teacher, learning support team and speech pathologist.

Additional request for use of recording devices for teaching and training purposes

I hereby grant Kids' Speech Therapy permission to audiotape, videotape or photograph my child during clinical sessions for teaching, training and educational purposes only.

Parent's name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

REFERRER'S DETAILS

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Indicate if you are the child's: Parent/GP/Paediatrician/teacher/other

Signature: _____

Date: _____

*Please note that by completing this form, you are consenting to phone/email contact from Kids' Speech Therapy. Referral forms can be downloaded from our website.