

Speech, Language and Communication Support

Speech, language and communication

Speech, language and communication skills are important for children to be able to express their needs, manage their feelings and form friendships. Communication and Language is a prime area in the EYFS which means that it is one of the most important building blocks for learning in all other areas.

Children develop their speech, language and communication at different rates. However, there are typical development patterns for children as well as possible signs or symptoms that may suggest a child has a difficulty in one or more of these areas.

The way that speech and language support can be accessed in Devon has changed recently.

These slides offer information about support that is available for families both in school and in the community.

Nursery aged children

Easy access drop in sessions

What is it?

Children and Family Health Devon are starting new easy access drop ins for children under the age of 5 years (pre-school age). These sessions are now being held in different locations across Torbay, South Devon, North Devon Exeter, East and Mid Devon.

These sessions will be held in community venues such as children's centres, family hubs and clinics, giving you quicker and more flexible access to advice and support.

Parents, carers and professionals are given clear information and support to recognise when a child or young person may need extra help, and to know where and how to get the right support as soon as possible.

When a child or young person needs support, their needs will be assessed at the right time. This will involve listening to the child or young person and working together with their family and school or other setting to understand what support they need.

Easy access drop in

What will happen?

At the drop in, parents will meet two members of the speech and language team to discuss your child's speech, language and communication skills. Whilst the child explores and enjoys a range of toys the team members will observe your child's speech and language development.

Families will be offered advice and strategies, which can be discussed and modelled to take away and try at home and/or in nursery.

Families will receive written information following this session (a report) which can be shared with the child's nursery/pre-school setting with parents' permission. This will include recommendations of advice and clear next steps.

Dates and locations

Upcoming dates in Exeter East and Mid Devon:

16 September 2026: Honiton Library: **9.30am – 11.30am**

22 September 2026: Newcourt Community Centre: **9.30am – 11.30am**

23 September 2026: Bow Village Hall, Station Road, Bow, Crediton: **9.30am – 11.30am**

(more dates will be added - please see CFHD website- link below)

Before travelling to one of our Balanced System Easy Access Drop in sessions, please always check the website as dates, time and locations are subject to change.

Please visit the Easy access drop in page for further dates and information: [Speech, language and communication Easy access drop in sessions – Children and Family Health Devon](#)

Upcoming dates in Torbay and South Devon:

11 Sep 2026	Ivybridge Library	10am–12pm
14 Sep 2026	Buckfastleigh Library	10am–12pm
16 Sep 2026	Torquay Library	10am–12pm
16 Sep 2026	Tavistock Library	10am–12pm
16 Sep 2026	Teignmouth Library	10am–12pm
18 Sep 2026	The Barn, Brixham	9:30am–11:30am
21 Sep 2026	St Edmunds	09:30–11:30am
21 Sep 2026	Paignton Library	09:30–11:30am
21 Sep 2026	Newton Abbot Library	10am–12pm
23 Sep 2026	Kingsbridge Library	10am–12pm
23 Sep 2026	Totnes Library	11am–1pm
28 Sep 2026	Newton Abbot Library	10am–12pm
30 Sep 2026	Torquay Library	10am–12pm

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Speech and Language Therapy

EASY ACCESS DROP IN

We are starting new easy access drop ins for pre school children.

Would you like any advice and support for your child's speech, language and communication skills? Visit one of our easy access drop ins with your child to see a Speech and Language Therapist. Get advice, support and strategies from the team.

Drop in sessions are now being held in different locations across Torbay, South Devon and North Devon. Exeter, East and Mid Devon.

If you would like to attend a drop in, please scan the QR code below to find a location and time that works for you.



Support for school aged children

If you have any concerns about your child's speech and language development, please talk to your child's class teacher.

Visit the CFHD website, there are toolkits and lots of great ideas for you to try at home:

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/health-topic/speech-language-and-communication/>

Visit the CFHD Facebook pages for more great ideas and activities

[Pre-School Facebook Page](#)

[School Age Facebook Page](#)

Call the advice line 0333 321 9448 which is open Tuesday and Thursday between 2pm – 4.30pm (see next slide)

Speech and Language support

Speech and language advice line for parents or professionals:

To talk to a Speech & Language Therapist to discuss your child, please call the advice line:

0333 321 9448

It is open once a week, alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2pm – 4.30pm, and aims to provide general support and advice.

Speech, language and communication - Children and Family Health Devon

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/our-pathways/speech-language-and-communication/>

Thursday 10th September

Tuesday 15th September

Thursday 24th September

Tuesday 29th September

Thursday 9th October

Tuesday 13th October

Thursday 22nd October

Tuesday 27th October

Thursday 5th November

Tuesday 10th November

Thursday 19th November

Tuesday 24th November

Thursday 3rd December

Tuesday 8th December

Thursday 17th December

Tuesday 22nd December

Other useful resources

Speech and language link parent portal

<https://speechandlanguage.link/parent-portal/>

Provides information about expected development in speech and language.

Speech activities and language activities that can be used at home.

Advice, information and a podcast.

Speech and Language UK

<https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/>

Help for families pages includes support for recognising signs and symptoms of speech, language and communication difficulties as well as information about typical stages of speech and language development.

Resource library, webinars and more