

Speech and Language FAQs

What are communication difficulties?

Communication difficulties may be delays in any of the following areas:

Listening and understanding	Social skills
Learning	Reading and writing
Explaining ideas	Pronunciation and clarity of speech sounds
Voice quality	Fluency/stuttering
Sentence structure and grammar	

Will my child grow out of it?

Some children do grow out of speech and language delays, but many won't, so do not wait and see. The earlier a problem is discovered and treated, the better the outcome for your child.

When should I make a referral?

You should make a referral as soon as you have a concern regarding your child's speech and language development. Again the earlier a problem is discovered and treated, the better the outcome for your child

How to make a referral?

A referral can be made by a phone call, in person or by completing a referral form. Forms are available on the Speech and Language webpage. Forms can be sent by mail, faxed or dropped off at your nearest Speech and Language Clinic.

Do I need a doctor's referral to have my child seen by the NH Speech Clinics?

No. Parents can self-refer by calling their nearest health unit or by filling in a referral form when they have a concern. Phone numbers and referral forms are available on the main page of the Speech and Language website.

What if there's no Speech-Language program in my community?

Many of Northern Health's speech-language programs provide outreach services to our communities. Please contact your nearest program (listed on our main page) to make a referral or to inquire about what is available for your community.

What should I expect from my referral?

You should expect a phone call from either the Speech-Language Pathologist or clerical/support staff. An appointment will be scheduled and you may receive information forms to fill out for that appointment.



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Is there a cost?

No. Speech & Language services provided by Public Health are at NO COST to families

Who qualifies for the service?

Public Health Speech and Language services are for children birth up to school entry. Some NH clinics will provide services to adults, in the community, with acquired communication disorders. Please contact your nearest health unit Speech and Language program to inquire if services to adults are available in your community.

What is an SLP and what do they do?

An SLP is a Speech - Language Pathologist. They assess communication disorders, plan and implement treatment in language, speech, voice and/or swallowing disorders, design and use augmentative and alternative communication systems, and consult regarding language stimulation and inclusion strategies and teach adaptation for language impaired students.

What is the difference between a speech-language pathologist and a speech therapist?

Usually these titles refer to the same profession. Sometimes how they are used depends on where the person was trained. Persons trained in Canada have the title of Speech-Language Pathologists. Persons trained in the United Kingdom have the title of Speech and Language Therapists.

