



## Talk About... what we do

The Talk About project provides early years speech, language and communication needs (SLCNs) support in Norfolk.

Following on from the success of the Norfolk based project **Every Child a Talker**, Talk About is a collaborative project which is grant funded by Norfolk County Council and developed and managed by a team of experts at Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust's Speech and Language Service.

We provide training for staff who work in playgroups, nurseries and reception classes to help them identify and support children aged three to five years-old who have difficulties in developing their speech, language and communication skills. Speaking, listening and interacting well with others are fundamental skills which are the building blocks for all areas of life. The early childhood years are a critical period for the development of these skills and are also the best time for interventions to help children with any difficulties.



## Talk About...what we offer

Talk About provides training and resources to early years practitioners and teachers in Norfolk so that they are better able to identify children with SLCNs and help them to achieve their full potential.

Our face-to-face training includes:

1. How children's speech and language usually develops.
2. How to spot when speech and language are not developing as well or as swiftly as usual, and what to do about it.
3. How to ensure your own interaction with children offers the best opportunities for language development.
4. How to monitor your group's speech and language as a whole, and how to track individual children's speech and language development.
5. How to support children with emerging communication difficulties, such as those associated with language delay, unintelligible speech, stammering or autism.
6. How to work effectively with parents to support their children's speech and language needs.

The face-to-face training will be supported by a new online toolkit, accessible to all early years practitioners and teachers in Norfolk.

## Talk About... how we measure success

We measure and report on the success of the Talk About project in a number of ways, including:

- Children's language progress
- Practitioners' and teachers' levels of training
- Practitioners' and teachers' confidence levels in helping children with SLCNs
- Parents' knowledge and understanding of how to support their children's language development

## Talk About... what's happening

### Events

Watch out for and get involved in upcoming events to support the Talk About project, such as our Getting Through art exhibition at The Forum, in Norwich, and our popular symposium on child speech and language development held at the University of East Anglia.

We will keep you informed of upcoming events via our newsletter, or you can log on to our Trust's website at:

[www.norfolkcommunityhealthandcare.nhs.uk](http://www.norfolkcommunityhealthandcare.nhs.uk)



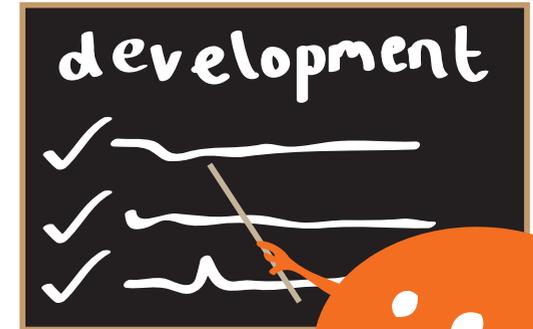
### Training opportunities

Our training is mostly free and takes place throughout Norfolk. It includes courses such as working with children who have:

- Autism and communication difficulties
- Listening and attention difficulties
- Reduced understanding of language
- Reduced expressive language and vocabulary
- Speech / sound difficulties
- Selective mutism

We will also offer courses on practitioner interaction skills, and signing.

Courses are available at foundation level for practitioners with little or no formal training in this area and extended skills level for those who already have some training in SLCNs.



### Newsletter

As the project progresses we intend to send a regular newsletter to keep people updated on upcoming courses, how the project is progressing, even some top tips or good news stories and feedback from you and your colleagues.

If you would be interested in receiving this, please email: [talkabout@nchc.nhs.uk](mailto:talkabout@nchc.nhs.uk)



### Online toolkit

An online toolkit will be available from mid 2013 to support you in your day-to-day work, providing you with access to information and helpful advice.



## Talk About... our team

Our Talk About team are all fully qualified and registered NCH&C Speech and Language Therapists, experienced in working with young children, their families, and the early years settings they attend. We are passionate about sharing our expertise, learning from and working closely with those who support children with SLCNs.

The saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' is one of the fundamental principles of Talk About as we aim to create the best environments for children to develop and flourish by working in partnership with the key people in their lives.



### The Talk About... SLT team are:

Alison Fuller (Project Lead), Helen Angell, Alice Hodges, Jenni Stone, Janette Yaxley, Kate Morley, Natalie Charlton, Rosie Payne, Shelley Hester and Laura Hough.

## Talk About... it some more

"Staff are more skilled at identifying language problems and this has made them change their behaviour towards the children. In turn, staff have found the children's behaviour has changed for the better. It is having a positive impact..."

**Day care manager, 'Every Child a Talker', DfCSF, 2009**

"I feel so much more confident... I feel as though the path of speech development has been made clear and I am in a much better position to develop all my children in their speech and language skills..."

**Teacher, 'Every Child a Talker', DfCSF, 2009**

"This training was really useful in making me aware of how much talking I actually do - I will definitely wait more now before I jump in asking questions..."

**Nursery staff member, 'Every Child a Talker', DfCSF, 2009**

"Learning a first language is the most important thing a child will ever do... Early years practitioners are in a unique position to support the development of language and communication skills in children... They can have a big impact..."

**'Universally Speaking', The Communication Trust, 2011**

"It may seem obvious but one of the best things we can do with young children is to have interesting and enjoyable conversations with them... We should think carefully how we speak to children - do we spend too much of the day issuing commands, do this, do that?... We need to think how we can keep being positive, encouraging them as they try to say things..."

**Michael Rosen, Children's Laureate, 2008**



## Contact information

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## For further information or advice

For further information, such as how to refer a child to our Speech and Language Therapy services, contact your local SLT office at King's Lynn on 01553 668544 or Norwich on 01603 508946.

You can receive help with queries about NHS services from **Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS)**

**Tel:** 0800 088 4449

**Email:** [pals@nchc.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@nchc.nhs.uk)

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If you would like this publication in large print, Braille, alternative format or in a different language, please contact us on 01603 697300 and we will do our best to help.



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