

# Receptive Language

Children's Speech and Language Therapy  
Acute and Community AHPs

## Introduction

This leaflet is produced for parents who may have concerns about their child's receptive language development. We hope you find this information useful.

## Receptive language

Receptive language refers to our ability to understand spoken words and sentences. When we talk to children we use questions, instructions and description. The words and sentences that the child needs to understand may be simple for example, 'Shut the door' or complex for example, 'After you put your book in your bag and put your coat next to the window, can you shut the door?'

Our understanding of words and sentences used around us relies on our receptive language skills.

Some children experience difficulties understanding spoken words and sentences.

A child may have difficulty with one or more of the following:

- Learning new words
- Processing and holding information
- Struggling to answer questions
- Struggling to follow spoken instructions
- Expressing themselves

Other signs that a child is having difficulty include:

- Frequently asking for clarification
- Asking an adult or friend for help to answer questions
- Asking an adult or friend for help with following instructions

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

## Strategies to develop receptive language skills

- Make sure the child is paying full attention to you before talking to them
- Keep information as short and simple as possible
  - Break information into smaller chunks
  - Give instructions one at a time
  - Give instructions in the order in which they are to be carried out
- Use visual support when possible such as gestures and pictures
- Give your child time to think about what you have said
  - Repeat instructions
  - Rephrase instructions

## Further information to support your child can be found in these leaflets:

Attention and listening skills

Expressive Language

Speech Sounds

Social Communication Skills

All are available from the website

## How do I get in touch?

### **Speech and Language Therapy Service**

The Gem Centre

Neachells Lane

Wednesfield

Wolverhampton

WV11 3PG

Telephone: 01902 444363

E-mail: [rwh-tr.Speech-And-Language@nhs.net](mailto:rwh-tr.Speech-And-Language@nhs.net)

Website: <https://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/services/service-directory-a-z/speech-and-language-therapy/>

## **English**

**If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.**

**If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.**

## **Lithuanian**

**Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.**

**Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.**

## **Polish**

**Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.**

**Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.**

## **Punjabi**

**ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।**

**ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।**

## **Romanian**

**Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.**

**Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.**

## **Traditional Chinese**

**如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。**

**如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。**