

Speech & Language Outreach Service

- The outreach service (behavioural and social communication difficulties) was set up in 2001 to offer specialist SLT input to children with communication and behaviour difficulties in mainstream school or at home.

Current Referral System

- Referrals are usually made by community speech & language therapists in Waltham Forest PCT
- *Exceptionally referrals accepted from CFCS and SENCOs familiar with the service*

Community speech and language therapists can refer if they have concerns in the following areas:

- Social skills
- Social interaction
- Attention/listening
- Behaviour
- Pragmatics
- Emotional difficulties

Typical Referrals

- Therapist unable to assess due to non-compliance
- Attention & listening difficulties preventing therapy
- Social Interaction

Management Options

- Joint review/assessment
- Second opinion
- Discussion/therapy planning
- Management techniques
- General advice
- Therapy

Process

- I arrange an appointment to review the child
- Decide if therapy appropriate/offer advice
- If therapy appropriate:
 - arrange dates (half a term)
 - agree a date for a feedback meeting

Therapy

- Therapy will be tailored to the individual eg
attention & listening
conversation skills
social stories
detailed observation
facilitating play with peers at playtime
(2-3 activities)

Attention & Listening

- May involve worksheets or games
- I point out where there is a breakdown in listening
- This leads to a script in the child's own words eg stop talking

Social Stories

- These are usually used where school have highlighted (behaviour) difficulties at playtime or in the classroom
- I ask school to provide me with 4-5 scenarios eg
 - What happens, Where does it happen
 - Who is involved, What would you like to happen instead
- I talk through these with the child and we decide which to work on (where child agrees with adult version and sees it as a problem)
- Social story implemented

Conversation

- We decide on a topic
- In conversation I will gently point out difficulties
 - eg straying from topic
 - how to ask questions
 - topic being interesting to both parties
- We will come up with a script eg 'what is a good conversation' in the child's own words

Detailed Observation

- Occasionally parents are unhappy about referral to CDT/CFCS. By observing the child over several weeks, their specific difficulties can be outlined in my report and discussed at the feedback meeting

Facilitating Play

- To encourage a child with social interaction difficulties to mix with peers at playtime
- As children are lining up to go out I ask X who he would like to play with
- I accompany the child to the playground and facilitate play with X & Y

Facilitating Play – Older Child

- We discuss ways of approaching peers
- I hover in the playground unobtrusively and observe
- The following week we discuss what worked/didn't work

After Therapy

- Ideas/strategies are passed on to school at the feedback meeting
- Teacher, parents, SENCO, LSA invited
- I take a draft report outlining what has happened during the therapy
- All parties agree on future management eg IEP targets, referral on, which is included in final report

- Child's care passed back to referring SLT
- I may review myself if the child is particularly difficult to work with
- May be discharged from SLT

Any Questions ?

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