

Speech and language therapy information sheet

Therapy Partners

Speech and language therapy (SLT) is very often not a quick fix. Sometimes we need to see children for quite a while and there are some problems we cannot solve, but we can help to come up with strategies to make communication easier for the child

SLT sessions are often once a week, in blocks, but children need help everyday so that they can make progress. Therapy partners are an essential way to make sure that children get this support, and SLTs are keen to work with partners because:

- Therapy aims are reinforced through frequent, regular activities
- Therapy can be brought into “real life” situations
- Partners can help others to understand a child’s difficulties
- Outcomes are improved for the child

The SLT works with the therapy partner by:

- Demonstrating and explaining therapy tasks
- Providing resources
- Helping them realise they can make a real difference for the child
- Giving positive feedback
- Being available as a contact for questions or worries between visits
- Stressing the importance of the therapy partner as part of the team working with the child

It is important to identify an appropriate therapy partner, someone who:

- Is familiar with the child and sees him/her most days
- Is able to understand why their role is important
- Is willing to try to find time to carry out the activities
- Can be confident in their role, and work with the therapist and child

SLTs would hope that therapy activities can be carried out with the child 3-5 times each week, for about 10 minutes each time. Therapy partners will need help from the school to find this time, and for this to be seen as important and a valid role for that person.

Thank you for helping us with this – you can help us help the children we work with!