

About the Pathway

The speech, language and communication skills your child develops in the first years of their life are a vital part of giving them the best start. These skills will shape your child's ability to learn and develop friendships, as well as their wellbeing and future life chances.

This leaflet outlines how every parent can support their child's speech and language skills and how professionals will support you.

 This symbol indicates when a professional will share a key speech, language and communication message with you.

For Everyone

Available to ALL families across Redcar and Cleveland

By Invitation

This may be offered if your child needs additional support

By Referral

A professional may identify that a referral to a specialist service is required

Find out more/contact us



Redcar and Cleveland Family Hubs

-  contactusfamilyhub@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk
-  redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/family-hubs
-  facebook.co.uk/RCBCFamilyHubs



South Tees Speech and Language

-  stees.youngpeoplespeechtherapy@nhs.net
-  southtees.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people/community/speech-and-language-therapy/
-  facebook.co.uk/SouthTeesNHSSpeechTherapy



National Literacy Trust

-  readnortheast@literacytrust.org.uk
-  literacytrust.org.uk/communities/north-east
-  facebook.co.uk/NorthEastLiteracyTrust

Early Years Speech, Language & Communication Pathways for parents and carers



Funded by
UK Government

For everyone

By invitation

By referral

Conception-birth

Your midwife will talk to you about how you can communicate with your baby bump.

You will be told about Redcar and Cleveland's 'Start for Life' offer, Family Hubs and R&C Libraries at your booking appointment.

Your midwife may invite you to attend our Preparation for Parenthood course.

0-2 years

You will receive a 'New Birth Call' from Family Hubs.

Your health visitor will give you a Bookstart pack at your 6-8 week appointment.

Visit our Family Hubs groups to support your child's communication skills.

At around 9 months, your health visitor will check your child's progress.

Little Moments Together Cards (0-9 months and 10-24 months) encourage talking and listening to your baby which helps build their communication skills from the very start. Use the tips on these cards to make the most of everyday little moments together.

2-4 years

If your child attends nursery or visits a childminder, they will monitor your child's speech, language and communication skills.

At around 2 years old, your health visitor will check your child's progress during a home visit.

You can get advice from the Family Hubs Speech and Language Therapist. To find out more, call 01642 770810.

Visit our Family Hubs groups to support your child's communication skills.

Conception - birth

The midwifery team (the Indigo Team) may offer extra support if you need it.

You may be invited to attend the Family Hubs Preparation for Parenthood course.

0-2 years

Your health visitor may refer you to the Family Hubs Infant Massage group.

Your health visitor can offer additional support for any speech, language or communication concerns.

A professional may refer your baby/child to the Family Hubs Chat, Sing and Read group.

2-3 years

A professional may refer your child to Wriggle, Read and Rhyme which is supported by the Family Hubs Speech and Language Therapist.

You may be invited to attend the Family Hubs Preparation for Parenthood course.

You can get advice from the Family Hubs Speech and Language Therapist. To find out more, call 01642 770810.

Your health visitor may assess and review your child in their nursery setting with your consent.

3-4 years

You can get advice from the Family Hubs Speech and Language Therapist. To find out more, call 01642 770810.

At around 3 years old, your health visitor may check your child's progress during a home visit.

A professional may refer your child to the Family Hubs Early Words Together group.

Your child's school/nursery may suggest Early Talk Boost, a speech and language catch-up programme.

0-2 years

If your child has an additional need, a professional may refer you to Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities support service.

If your child has an identified need, a professional can refer you to the Specialist Speech and Language Service.

3-5 years

Your child's education setting will have a SENDCO (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator). You can discuss any concerns with them.

Other useful resources

The Chat, Play and Read booklet gives you fun and simple activities to support babies' and toddlers' communication and language development.

The Sing With Me booklet has eight popular nursery rhymes for you to sing with your child - each with simple tunes and lyrics. They can be enjoyed whether your little one is five weeks, or five years old.

Walk and Talk Cards will help you talk to your baby or child while you are out and about to develop their speech and communication skills.