

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust: Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy

Pre-School Complex Needs Referral Criteria

Criteria

- Child must be aged between 2-4 years
- **Child must be known to a Paediatrician.** There must be a clinic report from paediatrician available. Not all children who are known to paediatrician will be eligible.
- Child must have disabilities / diagnosed conditions which could affect communication skills e.g. Cerebral Palsy, Down's Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- OR Child must have significant social communication difficulties (likely to go to BSCIP). These children **must** have little or no verbal communication **and** their social communication impairment severely affect daily life. You must show evidence of difficulties in both areas in order for a referral to be accepted.
- Children referred in the last term of the academic year before they start school will not be accepted into the pre-school team and will be transferred to the most appropriate team.

How to refer

- Paediatricians may refer into the service using a recent detailed clinic report as well as a covering letter
- Health visitors/settings/child minders may access the service using an Early Help Assessment Form or a referral letter making sure information on the following sections is included:
 - Attention and listening
 - Play skills
 - Expressive language
 - Receptive language
 - Speech Sounds
 - Feeding/drinking difficulties
 - Sensory issues
 - Other services involved
 - Other medical/health needs
 - Advice/ Strategies/ Programmes currently being used
- Referrals should be sent to communitytherapyadmin@boltonft.nhs.uk or Brightmet Health Centre

What happens next

- If the referral is accepted, an "opt in" letter will be sent to families and parents/ families will need to contact the service within a two-week period. If we do not hear from the family, they will be discharged
- A Speech and Language Therapist or Assistant will then be in touch with the family to take a case history and arrange an appointment.
- NOTE: If a child does not meet the criteria above, the referral may be rejected or passed to the Early Year's Language and Communication Development Service for review.