

## **Information for Parents and Carers Hearing Impairment Team for Children**

This leaflet explains the role of the Speech and Language Therapy Hearing Impairment Team for children across South East Wales.

### **Who do we see?**

Children are accepted for assessment if they have been diagnosed as having a severe/profound bilateral permanent hearing loss. This means they will have a hearing loss of 70 decibels or above. Pre-school children with moderate bilateral hearing loss and associated communication difficulties who are seen at the Early Years Hearing Meeting may also be accepted for assessment. This decision will be made by the therapist at this meeting.

### **What do we do?**

Following referral we will work with you to identify what is important to you and important for you as a family. We will work with you to plan therapy. Targets will be carefully monitored with you by the speech and language therapist. Any of the following input will be agreed with you:

- Training/advice to carers, school staff and other professionals involved with your child
- Home programme for parents
- School programme
- Individual therapy
- Group therapy

We will support you to develop your child's language through signed or spoken means.

We work closely with other professionals to best meet the needs of your child, for example, teachers of the deaf.

### **Where do we work?**

The Speech and Language Therapy Hearing Impairment Team for Children may work with children all over South East Wales in:

- Clinics
- Schools
- Nurseries
- Homes

### **Ways to help**

- Get your child's attention before starting to talk.
- Always get down to your child's eye level to communicate and play.
- When talking to your child speak clearly and at your normal pace without raising your voice.
- Think about what you are wearing. Bright colours and patterns can be distracting. Try to keep hair and hands away from your face.
- Keep your hands empty so you can use natural gesture to support what you are saying.
- Use extra clues to reinforce what you are saying, e.g. repeat and stress important words, use pictures and objects to demonstrate the meaning of the word and use a range of facial expressions.
- Remember that your voice is not the only sound being amplified by hearing aids or a cochlear implant, so reduce background noise where possible e.g. turn off the TV.

## Contact details:

You can leave a message for the team on: **01633 436744**.

Additional useful information is available for the National Deaf Children's Society on the following website: <http://www.ndcs.org.uk>

We hope you will find this leaflet useful. If you need further information about the Speech and Language Therapy Service or would like to make any comments or suggestions, please contact us at:

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Room 102  
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board  
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Tel: 01633 431633

(8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday)

or, visit our website at:

<http://www.sltgwentabhb.wales.nhs.uk>

