

## Speech and Language Therapy – What to expect during your child's initial assessment?

- **What is an initial speech and language assessment?**

An initial assessment is an assessment of your child's speech and language skills and difficulties. An initial assessment allows the Speech and Language therapist to make recommendations about what the best course of action may be for your child.

- **How long does an initial assessment take?**

Initial assessments usually take two hours but this is dependent on the areas that the therapist wishes to assess and on how engaged the child is with the assessment.

- **What will happen during the initial assessment?**

During the initial assessment, the therapist will take a case history from the parents. A case history is a series of questions. Sometimes, parents may not know all of the answers to the questions; this is fine as the therapist will provide support as required when answering these.

The therapist will assess the child's speech, language and communication strengths and difficulties informally through play activities and formally through the use of assessment books. The therapist will use a variety of tasks and will try to make these as fun as possible.

The therapist may wish to observe the child interacting or playing with their parents. This is so that the therapist can gain as much information as possible about how the child typically communicates.

Following the assessment activities, the therapist will provide the parents with some instant initial feedback. To provide further detailed feedback, the therapist will need to analyse the assessment findings and will then explain these to the parents.

- **What will happen following the initial assessment?**

As every child is unique, it is impossible to list all of the options that a Speech and Language therapist may recommend. Some of the recommendations may be:

- Further assessment
- 1:1 speech and language therapy sessions
- Advice sessions with the parents and/or teaching staff
- A speech and language therapy programme for school
- Reassurance and advice to parents

At Integrated Treatment Services we work closely with the parents and family and we are flexible when delivering therapy. We always provide parents with choices and information to make informed decisions.

If you have any further questions about initial assessments or wish to arrange an initial assessment with one of our Speech and Language Therapists, please contact us on 0845 838 2921 or [info@integratedtreatments.co.uk](mailto:info@integratedtreatments.co.uk)