

### Who else can help?

Schools have access to a range of professionals who advise on arrangements for supporting pupils with language difficulties.

You or your child's teacher (with your permission) can ask a speech and language therapist to see your child.

Other services who can help include:

- Educational Psychology Service
- Local Inclusion Officer Service
- Support Service for SEN (for pupils with statements)

If your child has other difficulties as well as with language, all schools have access to County services which can offer support and advice for pupils with:

- behaviour difficulties
- autism spectrum difficulties
- hearing, physical and/or visual difficulties
- learning difficulties

Your GP can make a referral for physiotherapy and occupational therapy, and will also advise on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and voluntary services such as Barnardos.

### What other advice is available?

Derbyshire has published comprehensive files of advice and information on speech and language difficulties, dyslexia and autism.

### Contact Details

**Derbyshire Educational Psychology Service**  
County Hall  
Matlock DE4 3AG  
01629 580000

**Head of Local Inclusion Officer Service**  
Derbyshire County Council  
Council House  
Saltergate  
Chesterfield S40 1LF  
01629 537699

**Derbyshire Parent Partnership**  
c/o Register Office  
New Beetwell Street  
Chesterfield S40 1QJ  
01629 533660

**The full version of the SEN Descriptors is available in every school and on the Derbyshire County Council website:**

**[www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)**

**If you require this and other Local Inclusion Officer Service leaflets in large print or another format, please contact the Head of LIO Service listed above.**



## My Child Has Language Difficulties



**Guidance for Parents and Carers about Help in School**

Schools have a responsibility to make provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN).

The Local Authority (LA) provides funding through normal school budgets to help schools to support pupils with SEN.

Derbyshire LA has produced

### **Descriptors of SEN Provision**

The Descriptors offer guidance and advice to primary and secondary schools about the level and type of support they should provide for pupils with additional needs. They are used by the LA to monitor provision for pupils with SEN without a statement.

They outline how schools should:

- Assess, plan and review provision
- Arrange teaching groups
- Adjust the curriculum and teaching methods
- Provide resources, such as access to support, up to £6,000/9.5 Teaching Assistant hours.

### **Your child may:-**

- Have difficulties with language which affect learning
- Find it hard to listen and understand what you say
- Find it hard to express themselves using words and sentences
- Use speech which is difficult for others to understand
- Have limited social interaction
- Be over physical with other students
- Show a marked difference between their language and other skills
- Not be doing as well as they ought to be doing at school
- Show frustration or become stressed and be unable to explain what is the matter
- Have a speech and language therapy programme
- Have problems communicating with other children and making friends
- Possibly have motor difficulties e.g. writing, running, hopping

### **What can school staff do?**

- Use teacher assessment and observations to establish how your child learns best
- Find out which ways of teaching are the most effective
- Discuss your child with relevant professionals who visit the school and use their advice to plan different work for your child
- Arrange for your child to have some extra help in smaller teaching groups supported by a Teaching Assistant
- Organise groups carefully so that your child can talk to and mix with other children
- Organise the classroom to help your child listen and pay attention.
- Teach new words for topic work
- Use classroom supports such as visual timetables and prompts
- Follow guidance from Derbyshire's File for Language Friendly Schools
- Involve you and your child in planning and in reviewing progress