

Contact information

For further information about the group please contact:

Speech and Language Therapy

Wye Valley NHS Trust

Ruckhall Lane

Belmont

Hereford

HR2 9RP

01432 344344 Ext: 3975

Or

Early Years Consultants

Learning and Achievement Service

Herefordshire Council

Blackfriars

PO Box 185

Hereford

HR4 9ZR

01432 260741

If you require this document in an alternative format or language please contact Speech and Language Therapy, Wye Valley NHS Trust, 01432 344344

Language Steps

A group for children and their parent/carers promoting early communication skills



Language Steps is a 10 week course for pre-school children (aged 2-3 years old) and their parents/carers. 4 - 6 children will attend each Language Steps group. The group will take place at a number of venues around the County and will be run by a Speech and Language Therapy Assistant and Children's Centre worker. Each child will attend twice a week, for 10 weeks (20 sessions in total). Parents/carers will be expected to attend 6 out of the 20 sessions.

Liaison with other services will be a priority – for example mainstream early years settings, other Children's Centre services e.g. Portage.

Aims of the group

- To promote quality parent/child interactions
- To improve parent's understanding of how early communication skills develop
- To encourage the child's understanding and use of early vocabulary
- To model good practice in adult/child interactions for practitioners from mainstream early years settings

Referral to Language Steps

Children must have been referred to Speech and Language Therapy and the therapist must agree that the child meets the criteria. This may be via an initial screen following referral or via attendance and subsequent referral to Speech and Language Therapy at the advice clinics at each Children's Centre. Please contact your local children's centre for details of the next advice clinic. Details can also be found on the Speech and Language Therapy website:
www.herefordshire.nhs.uk/1747.aspx

Who can attend Language Steps?

- Children will have a moderate language delay and would not meet the criteria for the Language Group at the Child Development Centre
- At a chronological age of 2 years formal and/or informal language assessment would show a delay of 12 months – placing the child's language at the 12 month level
- At a chronological age of 3 years assessment would show a delay of 12-18 months – placing the child's language at 18 month -2 year level.
- Children with English as an Additional Language must have had at least 6 months regular exposure to the English language before being considered for the groups.
- Children with social communication difficulties would not be considered appropriate referrals for this group.
- Children with global developmental delay whose language skills are delayed compared to the rest of their development may be considered for inclusion in the group at the discretion of the Speech and Language Therapist and Early Years Consultant.
- Parents must agree to attend Language Steps sessions with their child.

