

**Criteria for Language Group at the Child Development Centre**

**March 2010**

- Referral for Language Group may be through MDA (Multi-Disciplinary Assessment Group).

Or: If a child has already been seen by a Paediatrician, and their profile is clear, i.e. severe language delay/disorder, with no other developmental concerns, the child may be referred directly on to Language group. This will be at the discretion of the Group's Advisory Teacher and Speech and Language Therapist, having consulted the relevant paperwork.

- Children who are referred to a Paediatrician via the JRT (Joint Referral) may be referred in by any professional, such as: Early Years Consultants, Portage workers, Speech and Language Therapists, or by referral straight through from the Early Support Group at the CDC.
- Children whose language development is delayed/ disordered to a severe degree will be eligible for the group.
- **At a chronological age of 3 years, formal and/or informal language assessments will place the child's language at the 18 month level.**
- **At a chronological age of 4 years, assessments will place the child's language at the 2 year level.**
- Children whose language is mildly or moderately delayed are not suitable for the group. These children may access Community Services at Children's Centres, and elsewhere.
- Children who have severe language delay/disorder may be eligible if presenting with only receptive difficulties (comprehension , or expressive difficulties alone, or may have both receptive and expressive difficulties. (Expressive difficulties includes delayed sentence structure, grammar acquisition, speech sound difficulties, vocabulary deficit, word finding etc. The child may have one, or more of these).
- Children with global developmental delay whose language skills are **in line with** the rest of their development will not be eligible for language group, regardless of the level of language delay/disorder.

- Children with global developmental delay whose language skills are significantly delayed or disordered **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 Advisory Teacher.
- Children may be admitted to the Group for differing periods of time, depending upon need. Some may attend for half a term, a term or longer. This will be reviewed on a termly basis by the Professionals involved, in conjunction with the child's Parents.
- Liaison with other Services will be a priority. For example, if a child is attending a Mainstream nursery, in addition to the Language Group, there will be close liaison between the two services. In addition, staff at the CDC group will keep up to date with what other services are available for children in the local area, for example groups and activities run by Children's Centres, in order to provide for each child's individual needs, as best as possible.