

A Speech and Language Therapy appointment will look at your child's:

Current language profile, including:

Understanding of words and sentences and stories (receptive language)

Talking in words and sentences and stories (expressive language)

Social communication (communicating with other people for different reasons)

Interaction (having conversations or doing activities with other people)

The appointment may involve:

A series of tasks that usually take between 1 and 1.5 hours to complete.

These may include:

Listening to instructions and pointing to pictures

Repeating words and sentences

Thinking about how words go together

Listening to sentences and pointing to pictures

Making up sentences to talk about pictures

Talking about a past experience

Explaining how to do something that is familiar

Describing a story that is shown in pictures

Answering questions about a story or picture



Parents/carers typically wait outside in the waiting area, although if your child is anxious, they can sit at the back of the room. There will be regular breaks throughout.

Please make sure your child arrives with any needed glasses and/or hearing aids for the assessment.

The clinician will help your child understand what their language strengths are and how they like to communicate and interact with other people. The clinician will provide advice on support they may need.

A Speech and Language Therapist in the Neurodiversity Pathway can help work out if children or young people have a Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) or Autism with a Language Disorder.

Autistic people may have no difficulties with language or significant difficulties with language or anywhere in-between. Difficulties may involve one or more aspects of language (understanding or using vocabulary, grammar, sentence structures).

Find out more about DLD here: [Afasic: Help with DLD \(Developmental Language Disorder\) - Children and Family Health Devon](#)

Find out more about autism here: [What is Autism? - Children and Family Health Devon](#)