



# Speech Pathology Referral Information for Pre-Primary Children

## Metropolitan Child Development Service

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child's Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

This checklist is designed to provide additional information to support a referral to Speech Pathology at the Child Development Service (CDS). It should be completed by a health or education professional with knowledge of a child obtained through direct observation over a period of time. This form must be accompanied by a CDS Referral Form containing a full description of the child's communication difficulties. This description should include the impact of the child's speech and language difficulty when interacting with others.

For children from a linguistically diverse background, consider also completing the 'Checklist for children for whom English is an additional language'.

### 1 **Articulation (Speech Sounds)**

- Some/all listeners have difficulty understanding in a known context.
- Difficulties in producing at least two speech sounds expected for age (see speech development guide overleaf). Please list examples on CDS Referral Form.

### 2 **Expressive Language (Talking)**

- Uses a limited range of connecting words such as 'but', 'so'.
- Incorrect use of pronouns. For example, 'her' used for 'she'.
- Difficulty with word endings (e.g. 'ing', 'ed', 'er', 'est').
- Sentences sound immature in comparison to peers.
- Vocabulary difficulties. For example, overuses non-specific words such as 'this' and 'there', has a restricted vocabulary and/or presents with word finding difficulties (difficulties naming objects).
- Difficulty telling stories or sharing news. Difficulties may include difficulties sequencing events, omission of events, simple sentences, unable to stay on topic.

### 3 **Receptive Language (Comprehension)**

- Difficulty, or may require assistance, in following 3-part instructions (e.g. 'pack away your pencils, push your chair in and then wait at the door').
- Difficulty answering a range of 'what', 'where', 'who' questions accurately.
- Does not attempt, or provides irrelevant responses to 'how' and 'why' questions.
- Shows inconsistent understanding of several concepts such as; place (e.g. between, next to), descriptive (e.g. heavy, dry), linguistic (e.g. first, before) and comparative (e.g. same/different).



#### 4 Pragmatics (Social Language)

- Difficulty initiating/holding a short conversation with peers and adults.
- Uses language for a restricted range of purposes. For example, may not ask questions or make comments (Please request further information from parents/caregivers regarding student's ability to use language in settings other than school).

#### 5 Stuttering

- Stuttering observed or reported by carer e.g. repetitions (e.g. 'mu, mu, mummy'), prolongations (e.g. 'Mmmmmummy') and/or blocks (e.g. '\_\_\_ I want to go').

#### 6 Voice

- Voice sounds significantly different to peers, e.g. hoarse/husky voice.  
Please recommend that the child sees the GP for an ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) referral in response to concerns about voice.

### Speech Development Guide

The table below provides an indication of which speech sounds are typical for a particular age.

Speech Sounds	Typically produced by the following age
p, b, t, d, h, w, y, m, n, ng	3 years of age
k, g, s, f, sh	4 years of age
ch, j, l, s blends (e.g. sp, st)	4–6 years of age
l blends (e.g. bl, cl), lisp	5 years
r, r blends (e.g. tr, gr), v	6 years
th	8 years

\*Adapted from Kilminster and Laird's (1978) study of Australian Children. The ages are a guide of when 75% of children used the speech sound listed accurately.

**Please add any other comments regarding the child's strengths or areas of difficulty to the CDS Referral Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/School phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method and time of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to the Child Development Service:**

POST: PO BOX 1095 West Perth 6872

Fax: 9426 7676

E-mail: [childdevelopmentsservice@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:childdevelopmentsservice@health.wa.gov.au)

For more information contact the Child Development Service on 1300 551 827.