

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service

Stammering and Speech Sounds

Speech Sound Difficulties

A child with a stammer who also has speech sound difficulties is at a higher risk of stammering for longer. Not being understood can lead to frustration and loss of confidence. The child may become anxious when speaking, particularly if their pronunciation is often corrected by an adult.

What you can do to help

- Be very positive about your child's talking. Praise the content and ideas and don't tell them that the sound has been said incorrectly. Try to concentrate on what your child says and not how they say it.
- Repeat the word after your child using the adult sound and then put it in a sentence. E.g. if the child that says "dat dot dell oder" the adult can say "That dog fell over, poor dog". This gives your child the chance to hear the correct sounds without any pressure to say it when they can't.
- If your child is often not understood even by family, a Speech and Language Therapist will be able to advise on how to develop use of the speech sounds in a fun and structured way.

Further information can be found on the website for the British Stammering Association (www.stamma.org)