

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service

Stammering - Hearing Complex Language

Hearing talking that is fast or complex.

Children naturally try to copy the language they hear around them. While they are learning to talk they use simpler language. If a child tries to copy the faster or longer sentences of adults they may stumble over their words.

What you can do to help -

- Speak slowly and calmly when talking your child. Pause often to allow them time to think about what you are saying and plan their own ideas.
- Try not to rush them or ask them to hurry up.
- Use language that matches the level your child is at. If your child is using short sentences then it is helpful for you to use short sentences. If your child is using simple words then you should use simple words. This is just while your child is learning to talk. You can build up the complexity as their language skills grow and develop
- Pause for about 2-3 seconds after your child finishes speaking before you say anything. This shows them that they do not have to rush when they speak.
- Give extra time for activities where talking may be tricky e.g. getting the family up, dressed and out of the house in a morning. Reducing the rush encourages calm talking.

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