



**Skills 2 Talk Speech Pathology**

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### **Information for new clients**

Skills 2 Talk Speech Pathology Services provide assessment and treatment for children aged 0-12 years, using approaches supported by current research.

At Skills 2 Talk Speech Pathology we appreciate that children are more confident in familiar environments and as a result we provide home based services. Our therapists come to work with your child within your home, which allows us to provide advice and suggestions that can be easily carried out within your daily routine. Sessions may also be provided at daycares and schools if this is appropriate for your child.

We can provide assessment and treatment for many areas including:

- Receptive and/or Expressive Language Delays
- Articulation and Speech Sound Delays
- Feeding and Oro-motor Difficulties
- Literacy Difficulties
- Assessment and advice for Alternative and Augmentative Communication Systems (e.g. Key Word Sign, books, boards, devices)
- Referrals for Language Development Centres

#### **Our Staff:**

Charlotte Wigham has over 10 years of experience in working with children with feeding, speech and/or language delays. She has extensive experience in creating partnerships with parents/caregivers to establish treatment approaches that suit the individual needs of a child and their family.

Charlotte is trained in many approaches, such as PROMPT, Key Word Sign, DIR Floortime and is a Hanen Certified Therapist. She has experience in working with children with a range of difficulties, including Hearing Impairment, Cerebral Palsy, Global Development Delay, Cranio-facial Syndromes and Sensory Processing Difficulties.

**Referrals:** GP referrals are not required. Parents can simply ring up and schedule the appointment for their child.

**Cancellations:** 24 hours' notice is required for cancellations. If you do not provide enough notice or fail to attend a session without contacting the therapist you will be charged 50% of the session fee.

**Payment of fees:** Payment for sessions must be given on the day of the service. The therapist will be able to accept cash, credit cards and EFT payments following sessions.

**Rebates:** Some children are eligible for a Medicare rebate through the Chronic Disease Management program. Access to this program is through your child's GP or Paediatrician.

Some private health insurance "extras" packages will provide a refund for speech pathology services. Please advise the clinician which health fund you are with so that she can provide you with the appropriate receipt.

**Initial Consultation:** The first appointment is for one hour. This session allows the therapist to gain background information about your child and to screen their current speech and language skills. Information is gathered by discussing the child's birth, developmental and medical history, as well as the parent's observations of the child's speech and language skills.

For children 3 years and younger the initial session will largely consist of play activities aimed to elicit particular speech and language targets. It will also include an observation of the child playing with his/her parent.

For older children (3 years and older) the clinician may administer a formal test alongside the targeted play activities.

A one hour (initial) consultation is usually sufficient for the assessment of:

- Stuttering
- Articulation (Speech)
- Straight forward expressive language delay)

**Assessment information:** Following the initial session the therapist will inform you if a more comprehensive assessment is required and how many sessions this will entail and the cost. The number of assessment consultations required will vary depending on the child's age and the type of communication difficulty.

Two or three consultations are usually required for children that may have complex difficulties, such as the assessment of:

- Receptive and Expressive Language Disorders
- Speech Sound Disorders
- Literacy Learning Difficulties

**Assessment report:** Please advise the therapist if a report is required. This report will outline the areas of strength and difficulties your child is having, as well as recommendations to help support your child.

Please refer to the fee schedule handout for the current rates for reports. Additional documentation (e.g. letters to support application for an Education Assistant, letters for lawyers, applications for equipment etc.) can be requested for a fee. Please speak to your therapist for a quote.