

Information for Children

After you have **hurt your head or face** you may need to see a **Speech and Language Therapist**.



We can **help** you with **talking, reading books, playing with your friends** and **eating and drinking**.



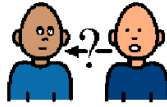
We come to **play games** with you, **look at pictures, read stories** or **play** on the **computer** with you.

We may need to **watch** you **eating and drinking** to make sure you can chew and swallow ok.

Information for Young People

A **Speech and Language Therapist** can help you after a **Brain or Facial Injury**.

Brain injury can **damage** parts of the **brain** that help with **talking, reading, understanding others** and **eating and drinking**.



Injuries to your **face or mouth** can cause **difficulties** with **talking** and/or **swallowing**.

We **work with you** to find out **what things are tricky for you** and **work** on these **skills together** to get them as good as we can.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Please contact us if you need general information or advice about Trust services.

www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/pals

Large print and other languages

For this leaflet in large print, please speak to your clinical team.

For help interpreting this leaflet in other languages, please ring 020 8223 8934.

Macluumaadkan waxaa lagu heli karaa qaabab kale, sida akhriska fudud ama daabacaadda wayn, oo waxaa lagu heli karaa luqaddo kale, marka la codsado. Fadlan la xidhiidh 02082238934.

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Patient information

Supporting Speech, Language and Swallowing Difficulties after trauma

(information for children and families)

Speech & Language Therapists see babies & children on the hospital wards.

To talk to us please contact:

020 359 41534

Bleep 1279

We work Monday to Friday between 8.30am-4.30pm



Speech & Language Therapy After Trauma

Following a **brain injury or facial trauma** your child may develop **communication or swallowing difficulties** and need to see a Speech and Language Therapist.

What do we do?

Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) are specialists in the **assessment**, and, **management** of children who develop **communication** and/or **eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties** after a traumatic event.

A SLT works with you and your child to assess their **strengths** and **needs** for all their **communication and eating and drinking skills** at different stages of their recovery through **play, observation and assessment**.

Where do we see you?

We may see your child at bedside on the **Paediatric Intensive Care Unit** and/or the **Paediatric Ward**.

When you **leave the hospital** your child may be referred to **Local Community Services** close to home/school or they may need further **inpatient rehabilitation at a specialist unit**.

Speech, Language & Communication After Trauma – What to Expect



A **brain or facial injury** can cause communication difficulties, including

- difficulties **talking**,
- **understanding** what people say,
- **reading, writing** and **using numbers**
- **learning** new things
- **social interaction**

A SLT will work closely with family and friends to

- **understand your child's communication difficulties**
- learn about **your child's personality** and interests.
- **find the best way** for you and your child to **communicate** with each other
- provide direct **therapy to rehabilitate skills**
- start using **different strategies** to **remember** and **put words together**,
- **adapt** the way **you communicate** to support your child's communication

Eating, Drinking and Swallowing After Trauma – What to Expect

After a **brain or facial injury**, it may be **difficult** for your child to **eat and drink**.

This can happen if the **muscles** for sucking, chewing or swallowing have been **weakened or damaged**.

Food and/or drink may 'go down the wrong way' into their lungs. This can cause chest infections.

A SLT works with you and your child to make sure it is **safe** for your child to eat and drink again by directly **assessing** their ability to **eat, drink and swallow**.

We will work with you and your child to find the **safest, easiest** and most **enjoyable** way to eat and drink again.

We may recommend

- **smaller amounts**
- **different utensils/cups/teats**
- different **consistencies** of food or drink
- **swallowing exercises**
- short or longer term **tube feeding**

