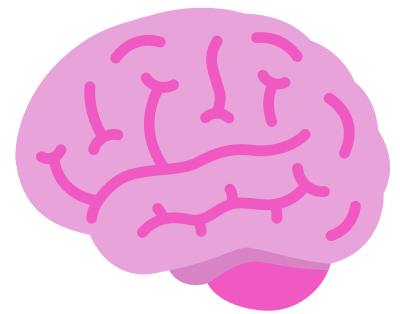


Speech Disorder

When children are: not developing their speech in the typical pattern, have a more limited range of sounds that they can use, struggle to co-ordinate their mouth movements or blend sounds together into words, they may have a Speech Disorder.

The word 'disorder' means that the areas of their brain that are involved in learning speech sounds aren't working as effectively. Sometimes there is no known reason for this other than it's how their brain has developed.



Children with a Speech Disorder benefit from intensive speech therapy from an early age and can go on to have a complete speech system when they are older. Here are some things to look out for regarding Speech Disorders:

- ▶ Persistent difficulty being understood by others. Speech seems effortful and the child may be frustrated when talking.
- ▶ Making errors with a range of sounds and words. Using one sound for many other sounds e.g. da do dee dare
- ▶ Different ways of saying the same word e.g. a dat - tat - cat
- ▶ Delayed first words or use of language.

If you are concerned about your child's speech development, please get in contact with your local NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service or talk to their school/nursery setting/Health Visitor.

