

You will also meet the SLT at progress meetings, which are held Termly with your child's Class Teacher and the SECNO. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress both at home and at school. In the summer term the next steps and future provision for your child will be discussed.

### What happens now?

If your child is allocated the additional support you will receive confirmation by letter and will be required to send back a reply slip accepting the offer. Following this we will contact you to arrange a home visit. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact us either via email or by phone (see front of the leaflet).

### Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a question, compliment, comment or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or [whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net)

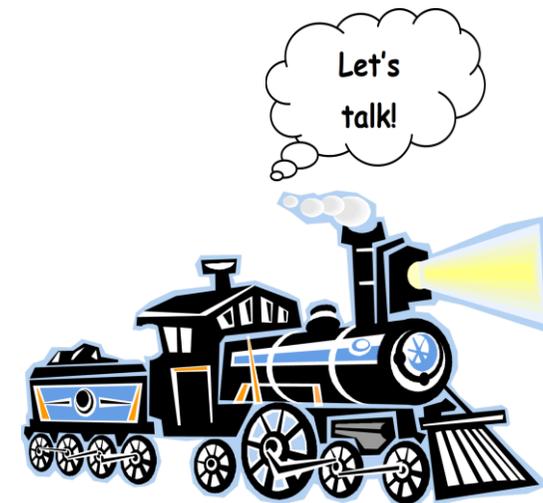
If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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## Language Train Additional Speech and Language support



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### **What is 'Language Train'?**

It is additional speech and language therapy support within your child's mainstream school. This provision is for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 school children who have been identified with Developmental Language Disorder. These children typically experience significant difficulties with communication and learning language.

### **Who provides this service?**

The service is provided by Whittington Health Speech and Language Therapy Service.

### **How many children receive the service?**

Eight children with severe and persistent speech and language difficulties access the additional therapy.

### **How is the decision made about who receives the Service?**

A panel meets to consider children put forward for a place and those with the most severe need receive the input.

### **How long do the children access the extra support for?**

The placement is for one academic year i.e. September-July. The placement will be reviewed yearly and can be extended to a second year if they continue to meet the criteria and there is availability.

### **Who will be working with my child?**

Your child will be seen in their mainstream school by a specialist Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) as well as the school's mainstream SLT. The SLTs will work closely with the Classroom Teaching Assistant and Class Teacher. This means that the SLTs will work directly with your child and also with your child's Teaching Assistant to model regular language activities.

In order to support your child's communication development within the classroom setting, there will be a series of training sessions for the Class Teacher. Regular meetings between the SLT and your child's Class Teacher will take place in order to discuss how your child is progressing with their language and to discuss specific targets that are being worked on with your child by the SLT.

### **How do we develop children's language skills?**

Children with language difficulties learn new words and ideas by experiencing them in lots of different learning situations. The SLT will provide School Staff and parents with strategies and information on how to best support language development. The SLT will work with your child on their own or in a small group to target specific areas your child is having difficulty with.

Targets are set for each child taking part in 'Language Train' and these reflect their individual speech and language needs. These targets are shared with parents and School Staff.

Children also learn language in social situations and need opportunities to interact with children who don't have language difficulties. To achieve this, your child will at times be seen in small groups and in the class room.

### **What involvement do the parents and carers have?**

Parents and carers will have regular contact with the SLT throughout the year. In the autumn term your child will be seen at home for a series of home visits. During these visits the parents and the SLT will work together to identify communication targets and set up activities to work on at home. Parents will also be invited to attend two parent workshops during the year.