For Further Information
For Information on fees, please visit www.easternhealth.org.au

Where are we located?
The Speech Pathology Department is located at:
8 Grey Street, Ringwood East
(opposite Maroondah Hospital).
There is limited parking on site. Please allow additional time for parking.

Reception hours:
9AM to 4:30PM Mon-Fri
(an after hours message bank is also available)

Protecting Your Privacy
Eastern Health is committed to protecting your privacy.
We will keep your personal information secure and disclose information about you only when required or permitted by law.

We comply with relevant information and privacy legislation. If you would like more information, please ask a staff member or visit our web site www.easternhealth.org.au

Eastern Health is accredited by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards.

If you have any English language difficulties, please ask staff to book an interpreter. From home, you can contact us directly by using the Telephone Interpreter Service 9605 3056. Interpreter services are provided free of charge. Ask staff to check if this information is available in your preferred language.

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**What Do We Do?**

We provide assessment and therapy services for children with a range of communication difficulties, including speech, language, fluency, voice and feeding difficulties.

**Who Can Access Our Service?**

Preschool-aged children 0-6 years old who:

- have communication and/or feeding difficulties
- do not have other areas of significant need (eg. fine motor delay) or a diagnosed disability
- are not currently attending another service where Speech Pathology is expected to be provided
- families who live, work or attend kindergarten in the area are prioritised.

**How to Refer to Our Service**

We accept referrals from a variety of sources in the community, including parents, kindergartens, Maternal & Child Health Nurses, G.P’s and Paediatricians.

*Signed referral form and registration forms need to be completed prior to being placed on our Waiting List. These will be sent out immediately when we receive your referral form.*

**What are Communication & Feeding Difficulties?**

**Communication:**

- **Late Talker:** Children who are 18 months and above and are not yet using words to communicate
- **Language:** Children who have difficulty understanding and/or using language to communicate
- **Speech:** Children whose speech is difficult to understand (e.g. mixing up or leaving out sounds in words)
- **Fluency:** Children who present with stuttering or difficulties with speech fluency
- **Voice:** Children who have an unusual voice quality (e.g. husky, breathy), pitch, volume
- **Social Skills:** Children who have difficulty interacting with others and making friends

**Feeding:**

Children who:

- have difficulty managing a range of textures
- refuse to eat or drink at mealtimes
- have difficulty chewing
- cough, gag or splutter often when eating or drinking
- have inadequate weight gain

**What Services Do We Offer?**

**Assessment:**

- Comprehensive communication/feeding assessments with a qualified Speech Pathologist.
- Verbal feedback and written reports provided to parents and the referral source with parental consent

Following assessment, the child may be offered:

**Group Therapy**

- Weekly group-based sessions run by Speech Pathologists and an Allied Health Assistant. Usually blocks of 5 weeks, working on areas of need (ie. speech, grammar, social skills)
- Groups have a maximum of 6 children in attendance. Parents and/or caregivers are expected to attend and participate.

**Individual Therapy**

- Frequency of sessions will be dependent on the child’s needs and service guidelines.
- Parent-training model used i.e. parents are trained to carry out home practice with guidance from Speech Pathologists

**Review and/or Home Programs**

- Activities and tasks provided for parents to complete with their child at home
- Child’s progress is monitored regularly through review session