

Lancashire Case Studies (Speech and Language Therapy)

Case Study 1

A 4-year-old boy who has been experiencing significant delays in speech development attended. He was described by his mum as autistic and waited in a quiet area, his mum explained he could not manage being with other children. His vocabulary was limited to a few basic words, and he struggled to form complete sentences.

This has led to frustration and frequent tantrums, especially when he cannot communicate his needs effectively. Due to his communication issues, his parents have been reluctant to let him play with other children and did not apply for a school place.

The concern was that his difficulty in communicating would lead to conflict or distress, and as a result, he has spent most of his time at home, interacting primarily with his parents. While attending the drop-in clinic, another child came to play with him, and his mum was able to see him interact positively with another child for the first time. Mum was supplied with information about deferring his school place and signposted to other suitable groups.

Case Study 2

A mother of six children attended drop-in speech and language sessions with her two youngest children, aged 18 months and 3 years, who have significant speech delays. Both children can only speak 2-3 words.

The youngest child, at 18 months, has also been referred to a physiotherapist because he is not yet crawling or walking. The eldest has been referred for an Early Help Assessment and Portage. The family has been travelling extensively, which has limited their access to consistent healthcare.

This has contributed to delays in identifying and addressing the children's developmental issues. Recently, they were referred by a member of the health visiting team and encouraged to attend a drop-in clinic.

The environment within the family hub provided a sensory room so the children could wait in a quiet space which eased their distress until their assessment could begin. The mum and partner are unable to read and write, support was available to complete the required history form for each child prior to assessment.

The information from the health visiting team was also passed onto the SaLT in person before the assessment due to both services working in the same location within the family hub.

Case Study 3

Dad attended with his son, who had been on a waiting list for almost a year.

Dad has been asking for help for two years due to concerns about his son, who would only say one word occasionally. He was quiet, concentrated on playing and listened well. He knew words but was not using sentences at age 4.

With English as a second language, support was given to complete the case history form. Following the assessment, further speech therapy sessions were offered.

