

What can I do to help my child while they are on the Social Communication Pathway, cont.

If you have concerns regarding your child's progress within their nursery or school, please discuss these with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo), who is responsible for overseeing your child's special educational needs

You can contact Achieving for Children for further information about the services available through the local offer <https://www.afclocaloffer.org.uk/pages/home/information-and-advice>

You can also contact local independent education support charities for further independent advice about support available in school or nursery, for example:

- **KIDS:** <http://www.kids.org.uk/>
Email: RichmondKingston@kids.org.uk
Tel: 020 8831 6179
- **Me Too & Co:**
<http://www.metooandco.org.uk>

Do I need a diagnosis of Autism to get help for my child?

- No. Within a school or nursery, the support put in place for any child is dependent on their needs, not on their diagnosis.
- Access to therapy input is also dependent on need, not on whether or not a child has a diagnosis.

- If you are looking for support to manage your child's behaviour, the borough provides courses such as Early Bird, and other types of support, through the local offer: <https://www.afclocaloffer.org.uk/pages/home/education>

Appointments and cancellations

If for any reason you are unable to attend the appointment, you must let us know so that we can offer the place to another child and re-book your appointment. We can only accept one cancellation of an appointment. You can request that your child be taken off the pathway at any time by sending a written request to the address below.

Contact us

Community Paediatric Admin Team
Ham Clinic
Ashburnham Road, Ham
Richmond, Surrey TW10 7NF
Tel: 020 8891 8188
Email: HRCH.richmondcompaed@nhs.net

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALs)

We provide free, informal, confidential help and advice for patients, carers and their families. We can help if you have a compliment, question or concern about community health services in Hounslow and Richmond. Community healthcare covers most of the services that are provided outside of hospital or GP surgeries.

Contact PALs on: 0800 953 0363
or email pals.hrch@nhs.net



Hounslow and Richmond
Community Healthcare
NHS Trust

Communication Pathway

Why is my child put forward for the Social Communication Pathway?

The community paediatrician or therapist who has assessed your child feels that your child needs further multi-disciplinary assessment regarding your child's social communication skills, and whether your child should be considered for a diagnosis of Autism

What does it mean to be on the pathway?

Being on the pathway means that information will be gathered from all health and education professionals involved with your child.

Your child's educational setting will be contacted for a report on your child.

If indicated, your child will be referred to speech and language therapy and / or occupational therapy, if you are not already under their care

Whilst on the pathway, your child will continue to receive input from any professionals already involved in their care. You should continue to liaise with these services directly.

Once information has been received from all the relevant professionals, your child will be discussed at a multi-disciplinary meeting.

Professionals at the multi-disciplinary meeting will include:

- Community Paediatrician
- Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
- Specialist Occupational Therapist

We will liaise with other relevant professionals as required.

The purpose of the discussion meeting is to ascertain whether there is enough evidence that your child fulfils the criteria for a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, or whether further assessment is required.

What happens after the discussion meeting?

There are two possible outcomes from the discussion meeting.

1. If your child fulfils the criteria for a diagnosis of autism, you will be offered a feed-back clinic session with the paediatrician without the child present to discuss the diagnosis and recommendations. A written report will be provided after this meeting
2. If there is not sufficient evidence for a diagnosis to be made at this time, your child will be invited for further multi-disciplinary assessment in the social communication clinic.

What happens at the Social Communication Clinic?

You and your child will attend an appointment which will include a standardised play-based assessment, and discussion with you regarding their developmental history and progress since they were referred to the pathway. The following professionals will be involved:

- Community Paediatrician
- Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
- Specialist Occupational Therapist

Following assessment, feedback and recommendations will be given. A written report will follow.

What can I do to help my child while they are on the Social Communication Pathway?

- Ensure that you continue to attend all therapy / medical / educational appointments offered for your child, and implement any recommendations you have been given. This is essential for us to be able to monitor your child's progress.
- We recommend that you share information with your child's educational setting.

Please turn over...