Ealing Early Start
Speech and Language Therapy Team

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**What we do:**
We provide a universal speech and language therapy service to families of children under 5 in Ealing. **Children do not need a referral to access our service.** We provide:

- Training for practitioners
- Training for parents
- Drop-ins to Children’s Centers (to meet families and offer advice)
- Talk and Play groups (run jointly with Children’s Centers; to support children’s language development)
- Fun and Learn groups (run by Children’s Centers, supported by us; to support children’s attention and social interaction skills)
- Makaton Sign Time group (run by us; to support children’s language development)

**Our aims:**
We aim to provide early intervention to children and families in Ealing by offering advice and support on the development of communication to parents and practitioners of children under 5. Our goal is to empower both parents and practitioners to help them to best support their child’s communication skills. Where possible, this includes preventing speech, language and communication needs from arising, as well as identifying and supporting needs as early as possible. We welcome referrals to our Service. If you are concerned about a child you work with, please see the guidance below on when to refer:

⚠️ No words being used by 18 months
⚠️ Appearing not to understand what is being said by 18 months
⚠️ Using less than 50 words at 2 years (these can be in a mixture of languages)
⚠️ Not joining words together at 2 ½ years
⚠️ Showing signs of frustration with getting their message across
⚠️ Not being relatively easily understood by 3 ½ years.
⚠️ Not speaking in a setting for 6 weeks or more

Communication is EVERYONE’s business!
We know that poor communication skills impact on a child’s socializing, learning and wellbeing—good communication skills are crucial for children’s life chances. Early identification and intervention for children with speech, language and communication needs is essential. It is ALL of our jobs to identify and support children’s speech and language development!

**To contact our team:**
**Address:** Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Team,
Early Start (Universal) Service,
Carmelita House, 21-22 The Mall, W5 2PJ

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