

# **The Children's Speech and Language Clinic at Newcastle University**

## **Information for Referrers**

The Children's Speech and Language Clinic (CSLC) at Newcastle University is a student-led training facility dedicated to training under-graduate and post-graduate Student Speech and Language Therapists (SSLTs). Its core objective is to provide these students with practical experience in addressing speech and language difficulties among children. The SSLTs are guided and supervised by experienced Speech and Language Therapists to ensure the SSLTs gain practical, hands-on experience and develop the vital skills needed to become adept and ethical practitioners.

### **The Children**

The clinic is suitable for children aged 3 to 15 years who have difficulty with speech and/or language skills. Children who are eligible for the clinic include those who would benefit from intervention in the following areas.

- Early communication skills (e.g., listening and attention, turn-taking).
- Phonological awareness.
- Vocabulary development.
- Speech (articulation and/or phonology).
- Understanding and processing of verbal information.
- Use of verbal language skills at sentence level and beyond ..

Due to the scope of practice of the clinic, we are unable to work with children where the following apply.

- Non-verbal communication difficulties.
- Complex physical needs.
- Stammering/stuttering (dysfluency).
- Hearing impairment.
- Have a current or suspected diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Children who have a current or suspected diagnosis of selective mutism\*.
- Where the use of an interpreter is warranted.

*\*A child who can communicate appropriately for their age and stage of development in a situation with some specific people but who are unable to do so with other people and/or in certain situations.*

## Children with more than one language

Within the clinic we aim to ensure the following.

- English, as the language of the region will be promoted and be the language used in clinic. However, we would honour the home language/mother tongue) of the family.
- If a child encounters difficulties in multiple languages, it may indicate challenges in language acquisition. In such cases, our approach would prioritise English (provided the parent/caregivers are proficient in this language) to actively facilitate and enhance language development, considering its relevance as the primary language in the region.
- If a child has sufficient command of English but are impaired in their second or other language/s, then the child likely has difficulty acquiring a second language. This is not within the scope of the CSLC, and the family will be directed to educational services.
- If a child has sufficient command in their primary language and this is not English, but they struggle with English as a second language, then the child likely has difficulty acquiring a second language. The child will likely need educational support in English to access teaching and learning. The family will be directed to educational services such as '*Language other than English*'.
- We focus on supporting children where direct communication with parents or caregivers in a shared language is possible; therefore, currently, we are unable to work with families where an interpreter is required.

## What the clinic offers for children and their families

The clinic offers weekly speech and language therapy for children and their families. Parents/carers are required to bring their child to weekly therapy sessions, this will mean taking children out of school or nursery each week.

Upon receiving your referral form, we will contact you to discuss support for your child at the university clinic. We will align our services with your child's needs and, if they have had contact with another SLT provider, collaborate with them for comprehensive care, with your permission. This ensures tailored and effective support for your child.

## Initial Assessment

Eligible children are offered an initial assessment by a qualified Speech and Language Therapist to make sure that what we offer can meet the child's needs and they are suitable for our students in training. As the clinic is a training facility for students all sessions are recorded for teaching and learning purposes. You will be provided with more detailed information regarding this before your initial assessment session.

## What happens at the clinic?

Under supervision the student Speech and Language Therapists (SSLTs) carry out intervention sessions as part of their training. With consent, we coordinate with other involved professionals to ensure intervention provided complements any existing speech and language support and educational needs. Parents/Carers are actively engaged in sessions. At the end of the period of intervention, we provide a comprehensive report on progress and recommend further steps as appropriate.

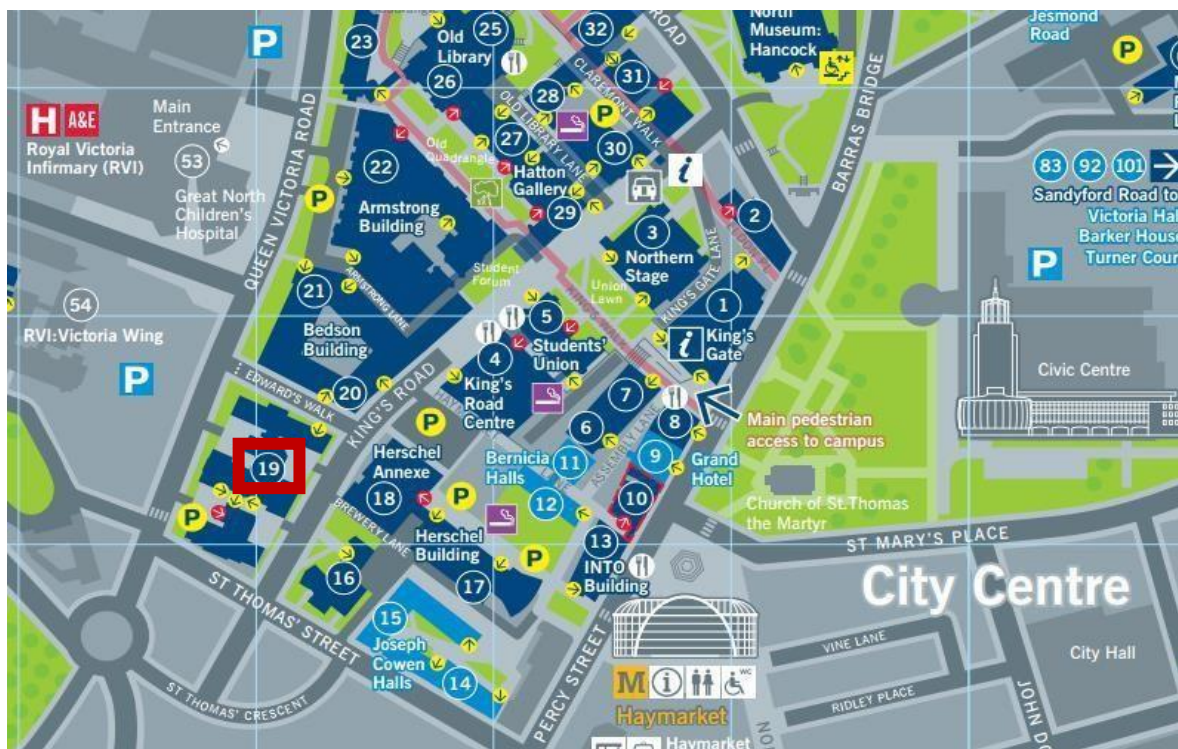
## Parent/Carer Commitment

If you decide to take up a place at the CSLC you will need to commit to attending weekly sessions for the entire 10–11 week block period of intervention. It is therefore important that you attend every session so that your child gets maximum benefit from the intervention. An adult must accompany your child to clinic each week and stay during the session. Our expectation is that you are actively engaged during clinic sessions and through follow-up tasks. To this end there may be additional activities to complete outside of clinic to reinforce and practise skills.

## Where are we?

The Children's Speech and Language Clinic, Newcastle University, King George VI Building, Queen Victoria Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE1 7RU.

**We are building number 19 on the map.** The entrance is on Queen Victoria Road, opposite the RVI. There is parking nearby in Leazes and Claremont Road (none on site) and we are a five-minute walk from the Haymarket bus station and metro.



## Clinic Dates & Times

The Children's Speech and Language Clinic runs for two periods of 10-11 weeks from September–December and January–May (there is usually a 4-week Easter break in March/April). During the Easter break packs of activities are provided. Sessions are between 40-60 minutes long, either in the morning or afternoon. Our teaching clinics will run on set days during university term times. Clinic days are usually Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Your child will be offered a place on one of these days so their session will usually be at the same day and time each week.

## Benefits of attending our clinic

- Students and supervising SLTs access up-to-date evidence and expert guidance.
- Students tailor activities to each child's needs and interests.
- You contribute significantly to training future therapists.
- Our modern clinics include observation and recording facilities.
- Our services are provided free of charge.

## How to apply

Please complete the application form by clicking on the link [Newcastle University Children's Speech & Language Clinic Application Form – Fill in form](#) or scan the QR code at the end of this document. Bring all documentation with you and any professional paperwork you feel would be helpful to your first clinic appointment. We will aim to respond to all applications within two weeks. We welcome applications from any of the following.

- Parents/Carers/Guardians.
- Schools or nurseries.
- GPs.
- Other professionals.

**Parental/carer consent is required for all applications.**

## For more information please contact:

**Children's Speech and Language Clinic Secretary**

**Tel: 0191 208 7385**

**Email: [ChildSLClinic@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:ChildSLClinic@ncl.ac.uk)**

Under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) you have the right to know what data about you and your child we hold. To provide speech and language therapy interventions we must hold personal data about you and your child, this includes identifying information and details about the sessions you attend. This information is stored in a secure way and only students and staff who need to use the information have access to it. We will only use the data for its original intended purpose, it will not be used by others for other purposes. We will keep the information for five years and will then securely destroy it. For more information, including how to find out about the data we hold and other rights you have under GDPR, visit our website: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/data.protection/accessyourpersonaldata/>

QR Code for scanning to access the CSLC Application Form.

# Newcastle University Children's Speech & Language Clinic Application Form

