



**AUSTRALIAN
THERAPY
SERVICES**
ASIA

TEACHER REFERRAL FORM

Speech, Language and Communication

Date

Dear

I have been observing in the classroom and I have some concerns about your child's speech/language/communication skills.

In particular, I have observed that in the classroom your child:

It is my recommendation that you see a speech pathologist to discuss these observations further.

You may find the attached chart/s useful to understand speech and language development across the years.

Australian Therapy Services offers free speech pathology consultations for parents that can be arranged on their website www.australiantherapyservices.com.au

If you prefer, I can refer your child directly to Australian Therapy Services.

Speech, language and communication difficulties are quite common and with accurate assessment and therapy from a Speech Pathologist, these difficulties can be addressed and supported, and improve our child's educational and social outcomes.

What does a speech pathologist do?

Speech pathologists assess, diagnose and treat difficulties with communication focused on understanding, talking (vocabulary, sentences and grammar), speech sounds and fluency (stutter).

In therapy, the speech pathologist supports the development of the child's speech and language skills through targeted activities and develops their skills across varied environments by providing strategies to ensure the child can reach their full potential at home and school. Early intervention is recommended to maximise the benefits of therapy.

Difficulties with speech, language and communication are thought to be one of the most common developmental difficulties amongst children. Whilst estimates vary, it is thought that 1 in 10 children will have difficulties in this area and would benefit from additional support.

What is a speech, language and communication difficulty?

Speech Pathologists support many areas of communication including:

- **Receptive Language** refers to how your child understands directions, learns new concepts and responds to questions. This may also be referred to as auditory processing. Difficulties with receptive language may be linked with poor attention and listening skills.
- **Expressive Language** refers to how your child builds sentences, tells stories and engages in conversation using appropriate grammar and specific vocabulary.

- **Speech Sounds** refers to how your child develops and makes the sounds within words using their tongue and lips (oral motor skills). Difficulties with speech sounds can affect how easy/hard your child's speech is to understand.
- **Stuttering** refers to the fluency of your child's speech which may be disrupted by repetitions (e.g. b-b-bus) and lengthening of sounds. This may also be referred to as a stammer.
- **Voice** refers to the quality of your child's voice. You might be concerned if your child's voice is too loud, swift, croaky or husky.
- **Social skills** refers to how we apply our language skills in different situations and may include eye contact, turn taking, interpreting body language and humour. This may also be referred to as pragmatics.
- **Literacy** refers to the development of reading and writing skills. Literacy is strongly linked with language skills (understanding what you are reading and writing) and phonological awareness (awareness of sounds within words).

About Australian Therapy Services

Australian Therapy Services Asia provide speech pathology via telehealth into international schools within ASEAN. There is a growing body of evidence to support services provided by telehealth. Our team of fully qualified speech pathologists are based in Australia.

Assessment and therapy services are provided online with a focus on collaborative support including the family, school and therapist. Online services allow access to a service in a convenient and inclusive format that can be provided at home or school. The platform allows both the home and school to be involved in session and access appropriate resources.