

## **Levels of Need and Service Delivery Good Practice Examples- A pre-school child with speech and language difficulties**

### **Introduction**

Ben is the only child of a young married couple. He is three years old and has speech & language difficulties. His father works full time and his mother is currently on maternity leave as a new baby is expected in 2 months time. Extended family and friends have difficulty in understanding Ben.

### **Current service delivery within universal provision and presenting issues**

Ben has started attending mums & tots regularly since mum has been on maternity leave. Before this, he was cared for during the day by maternal grandma who lives nearby. Ben's speech and language initially developed within normal parameters but it has become evident over the past 3 months that Ben is not linking words which is normal for a child of this age.

### **Initial targeted response**

Ben's mum has contacted the health visitor with her concerns regarding his speech and language. She also states that he has had lots of coughs and colds recently treated with antibiotics, on several occasions. The health visitor says that she will refer Ben for an audiology appointment which will determine if he has any hearing loss as a result of "glue ear" from the recent infections. Following the audiology appointment, Ben will be referred to a speech and language therapist. The health visitor also suggested that Ben would benefit from attending nursery, and suggests that mum registers him at the local educational nursery as he is entitled to a free nursery place.

### **Outcomes of initial targeted response**

Mum agreed with the health visitor's suggestions re referrals and nursery. Ben attended his audiology appointment and the results were normal. The speech therapist undertook an initial assessment and arranged regular sessions at the local clinic aimed at improving Ben's speech. Mother was also given some speech and language exercises to undertake with Ben between formal sessions with the therapist. From next month Ben will be attending his local educational nursery for 5 half day sessions per week.

### **Further actions leading to coordinated targeted response**

As Ben's progress has been slower than anticipated the speech therapist has seen him in nursery for extra sessions and has worked with the nursery staff on similar exercises to those undertaken at home to encourage the speech development even more. Ben is aware of and understands the impending birth of his sibling. This event is being used as a way of assisting his speech development and understanding.

**Outcomes of coordinated targeted response**

After 6 months of speech & language therapy, nursery attendance and the arrival of new baby Josh, Ben's speech has greatly improved. He is now speaking in clear short sentences and his comprehension is more age appropriate than previously. Extended family and friends are now able to understand him and hold a conversation with him.

**Further actions leading to specialist response**

If Ben's speech had not improved at this stage then he would have been re-referred for audiology investigation and possibly to the ENT surgeon.

**Specialist response**

Not applicable

**Outcomes of specialist response**

Not applicable

**Appropriate maintenance within universal provision**

Ben has now been discharged from speech therapy and continues to attend and enjoy nursery regularly. Mother is aware of appropriate expectations of future speech and language development, which will be helpful in her observation of Josh's speech development. The health visitor has maintained contact with the family via the Core Programme for Josh. Both children will attend the GP surgery as Mother feels necessary.