

## Speech therapy

A speech therapist examines and rehabilitates children with speech, language and communication problems. The aim of speech therapy is to strengthen a child's speech and language development skills and prevent learning difficulties. The speech therapist can, if needed, refer a child to further examinations.

Speech therapy is a part of Finnish public health care and many children under school age receive speech therapy. Speech therapy is a free service.

Children are referred to speech therapy through their child health clinic. Parents can also call a speech therapist if they are concerned about their child's speech and language development.

In speech therapy the child's verbal development is supported with the help of play, games and exercises. In addition, the speech therapist can assign home exercises which the parents do with the child. An appointment with a speech therapist lasts for about 45 minutes. The child attends the speech therapy appointment alone or with the parents. If needed, an interpreter will be booked for the appointment. The number and content of the speech therapy appointments are set according to the child's needs in collaboration with the parents.

Collaboration with the cities of Espoo, Helsinki, Jyväskylä, Kauniainen and Vantaa.