

Welcome to Sheffield Big Talk: Supporting School Age Children and Young People with Speech, Language and Communication Needs and their Parents/Carers and Families



**At the Philippa Cottam Communication Clinic
Tuesday July 22nd 11 to 12.30 pm
Wednesday July 23rd 11 to 12.30 pm
Tuesday August 5th to Thursday August 7th 11 to
3pm**

**Department of Human Communication Sciences
Mushroom Lane
University of Sheffield
Sheffield**

S10 2TN

Hello

Sheffield Big Talk is a support group for parents/carers of school age children and young people with speech, language and communication needs. We would like parents and carers to be part of Sheffield Big Talk and to bring their children/young people to the group.

We are Sarah Spencer, Sarah Hooker, Genna White, Tracy Woolhouse, Gill Millard and Judy Clegg, and we run Sheffield Big Talk.

Genna, Sarah and Tracy are parents of school age children with speech, language and communication needs. Sarah Spencer is a Lecturer and speech and language therapist, Judy is a Senior Lecturer and speech and language therapist, Gill has previously worked in the department as a research assistant and she is an experienced speech and language therapist. Sarah and Judy work in the department of Human Communication Sciences, University of Sheffield.

Sheffield Big Talk will meet for two short sessions on 22nd July and 23rd July from 11 to 12.30 pm and for three days in the school summer holiday from Tuesday 5th August to Thursday 7th August from 11am to 3pm.

Big Talk is for school-aged children and young people (in Reception Class or older) with speech, language and/or communication difficulties and their parents and carers. We would like people to come to all of the five Big Talk sessions to allow us to work on speech, language and communication targets and to do some project activities as a group during the sessions.

Sheffield Big Talk has been set up for four main reasons:

1. Parents and carers of school age children/young people with speech, language and communication needs in Sheffield are keen to meet up and support each other. Parents and carers will be able to stay during Big Talk to chat, share ideas and experiences.
2. Children/young people who come along to Sheffield Big Talk can work with our speech and language therapy students on the speech, language and communication targets set for them by the Sheffield or their local Speech and Language Therapy Service

and/or their school. Or, if children/young people do not have any targets then we can discuss offering appropriate support and intervention. Note: we do need parents/carers and their children/young to commit to this in advance (see later section on page 6).

3. We all feel that raising the awareness of children/young people with speech, language and communication needs is really important. Setting up and being involved in Sheffield Big Talk is one way of raising awareness.
4. Our speech and language therapy students are keen to meet with and learn more about working with school age children/young people with speech, language and communication needs. Some of our students are currently training to be speech and language therapists, and some are already qualified but are looking to gain further experience of children/young people with speech, language and communication needs.

About the group

The aim is to be informal and supportive. We plan to help parents and carers to support each other as well as facilitating the children's speech, language and communication. We also hope you will find the group interesting, useful and enjoyable. There will be opportunities to choose or suggest activities as the group evolves.

We will plan the Big Talk activities in detail once we've got an idea of who is coming along and what their interests are. However, Big Talk is likely to include a mixture of group work and 1:1 time with student speech and language therapists. We will work on communication skills and social skills during the activities.

We are aiming for Sheffield Big Talk to have a strong presence in Sheffield. We are working with the Sheffield Speech and Language Therapy Service in developing Sheffield Big Talk and the service supports parents/carers and their children to attend the groups. The initial Big Talk sessions will form a short pilot and will help us decide about how to move forward with Big Talk in the future.

Tuesday July 22nd 11 to 12.30 pm	Wednesday July 23 11 to 12.30 pm	T u e s d a y August 5 11am to 3pm	Wednesday August 6 11am to 3pm	Thursday August 7 11am to 3pm
Getting to know each other Please bring: a recent speech and language therapy report (if possible)	Activity/project work	Activity/project work Please bring: packed lunch	Activity/project work Please bring: packed lunch	Activity/project work Please bring: packed lunch

How to get here

We are on Mushroom Lane which is next to the Western Park Museum and near the Sheffield Children’s Hospital and the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. The full address is the Philippa Cottam Communication Clinic, Department of Human Communication Sciences, Mushroom Lane, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN.

If you come by car, we may be able provide a parking space if you ask in advance but this is limited to only a few spaces. There is also on street parking around the area including Crookes and Broomhill. Please do ask us if you need advice about parking.

If you come by public transport, you can catch bus number 52 (First or Stagecoach) or the number 51 (First) from town to outside the Children’s Hospital. It is about 200 yards to the clinic from the bus stop.

Running costs

This group is not part of the NHS and so we would like to ask for a contribution of £5.00 per session to help with running costs. Your contribution will help sustain our provision of the group, and the opportunities it allows for supporting students and newly-qualified speech and language therapists with clinical experience. This is a

recommended contribution only and not compulsory in any way. Please do not worry if it is not possible to make a contribution. It is much more important that you are able to come along and be part of Sheffield Big Talk.

How to contact us

To confirm you would like to attend or to find out more, please email us at:

Sarah.spencer@sheffield.ac.uk

Or

Jacqui.watson@sheffield.ac.uk

If you have any queries or would like to discuss the group further:

Genna can be contacted on 07967 135505

gennabayston@icloud.com

Sarah can be contacted on 07870 270844

SarahJoseph92@hotmail.com

Judy can be contacted on 2222450

j.clegg@sheffield.ac.uk

Sarah can be contacted on 2222411

Sarah.spencer@sheffield.ac.uk

Jacqui Watson, our secretary, can be contacted Weds-Fri on 2222418

Jacqui.watson@sheffield.ac.uk

We hope you will join us and enjoy the group!

Genna, Sarah, Tracy, Gill, Sarah and Judy

Important note about the speech and language therapy offered through Sheffield Big Talk

Our speech and language therapy students can work with children/young people who attend Sheffield Big Talk to facilitate their speech, language and communication development. This takes place in small groups of children/young people and parents/carers are very welcome to observe this and to be involved as they wish to.

In order for children/young people to take part in this, we need to know in advance if the children/young people are coming and that they can commit to attending the group for all the sessions. When we know which children/young people are attending and that they can attend consistently, we will be able to plan the work we do with them which will be specific to each child/young person. We will also need information about the speech, language and communication targets the children are working on (where this is available). Parents/carers will need to bring this information with them or to let us have it in advance.

If you would like your child/young person to take part in the speech and language therapy groups then please do e-mail us and let us know that you can commit to attending all the sessions and that you will be able to let us have some information about the speech, language and communication targets your child is working towards. We will then ask you to complete a form about your child and the targets they are currently working towards.

Please do contact us to discuss this further

Sarah.spencer@sheffield.ac.uk

Jacqui.watson@sheffield.ac.uk