



# The Hearing Team

Information for Preschools  
and Families

Sensory Support Service



# Local Offer



Griffins is the hub of the Sensory Support Service, Hearing Impairment (HI) and Vision Impairment (VI) teams.

The Sensory Support Service Hearing Impairment (SSSHI) consists of three teams providing a continuum of support for children and young people with a diagnosed hearing loss.

The SSSHI teams support children and young people (0-19 years) with a diagnosed hearing loss, working with their families, the education setting and other professionals.

The wellbeing and needs of the Deaf child lie at the heart of this vibrant team. All the Teachers of the Deaf (ToD) train regularly to keep abreast of new research and technology in the field of Audiology and Deaf Education.

Our aim is to provide a high quality service for the children and young people through innovative practice working in partnership with partners, providers and families. We will work together to achieve the best educational and social-emotional outcomes for our children and young people.

The “voice” of each child and young person and their family are central to the work that we do. We ensure that they are informed and empowered to make appropriate choices. The holistic approach is of paramount significance and essential to the development of young people as they prepare for adult life. The ToD will offer bespoke support to the child, family and placement at all transition points. E.g. preschool to school.

**The Peripatetic Hearing Team** supports children 0-19 years, working with families and schools from diagnosis to secondary school.

**The Primary Deaf Base** at Griffins supports children; 3-11 years; who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and a specialist placement at Darrick Wood Infant and Nursery Schools or Darrick Wood Junior School.

**The Secondary Base for HI**, the Deaf Centre at Darrick Wood School supports children and young people; 11-18 years, who have an EHCP and a specialist placement at the school.

## Hearing Team Early Years Support

Communication and language development are crucial in the early years.

The ToD Team will visit the child and family at home following diagnosis and referral from the Audiology Department. We provide advice and guidance on hearing loss, audiological management and language development. We support the parents as their child embarks on the journey towards successful communication and learning. When the child starts at preschool/nursery, the ToD will visit the placement as well.

Communication and language development is monitored using nationally agreed materials and enables the family to celebrate their child's development and identify communication needs.

'Sing and Sign' play sessions are held at Griffins for preschool children and their families to give them opportunities to meet each other in an informal and friendly atmosphere (sessions are run during term time and free of charge).

When the child starts school, the ToD will liaise with the family and school, and be part of the transition process.

## Access to the SSSHI

This Service will only accept referrals from Community Audiology, Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) or Tertiary Audiology Clinics.

Each referral will be individually reviewed and ToD support and involvement is guided by the National Sensory Impairment Partnership's (NatSIP) Eligibility Framework.

The Team have an Open Door policy for general advice on hearing loss.

Families and Preschools who would like a child's hearing assessed, can make a referral to Community Audiology (Phoenix Centre) using the referral form:

[Audiology \(Children and Young People\) - Bromley Healthcare](#)

Select "Using this Service" to find the form

## Our Offer to Preschools

Children are visited at their preschool as guided by the NatSIP Eligibility Framework. The ToD will contact the placement to arrange a visit. The ToD will provide and support staff with teaching, learning and audiological management strategies.

A Learning and Inclusion Plan (LIP) is provided with audiological information and recommendations for reasonable adjustments to allow equitable access to the learning environment.

There is a record of all visits which outlines key information and advice. Further information is also shared with families so that advice can be followed in the home environment.

Nursery and Preschools can contact the Hearing Team at any time (during term-time) for advice and support regarding issues related to hearing loss.

The ToD works in partnership with parents, Audiology, school and other associated professionals.

## What we offer preschools

### **Educational:**

- Advice and support for the implementation of management strategies in the Early Years (EY) environment to enable optimum access to learning and activities
- Strategies on how to overcome barriers to play and learning
- Guidance for raising awareness on hearing loss and Deaf Friendly Early Years environments
- Suggestions on resources for Early Years staff
- One-to-one or small group teaching as required



## **Audiology/Acoustics:**

- Advice and support on managing the acoustic environment in the setting
- Educational advice regarding the effects of hearing loss and the importance of using prescribed audiological equipment
- Guidance using Specialist Audiological Equipment, e.g. Portable Soundfield Systems
- Training on how to manage the child's hearing aids/Cochlear Implants (CI)

## **Assessment:**

- Teacher of the Deaf assessments are carried out, as appropriate, to track speech accessibility and language development. This data is shared with the family and preschool to inform planning
- Monitoring and tracking of progress. E.g. Success From the Start, Early Years Foundation Stage, Preschool Language Scales, Common Object Toy Test
- Advice on referral to other professionals
- Advice for EHCP, if appropriate

## **Social and Emotional:**

- Monitor and provide advice on social and emotional development linked with hearing loss and Deaf Identity

## **Training:**

- Deaf Awareness Training and guidance on how to meet legal requirements are provided to staff and associated professionals (free of charge). Please discuss with your ToD
- British Sign Language (BSL) courses are offered at Griffins and the Deaf Centre at Darrick Wood School (free of charge except exam fees)

# Preschools' Responsibilities

To support best outcomes for the child by:

- Attending Deaf Awareness training so as to develop an understanding of hearing loss, its impact on language acquisition, social and emotional development and future academic and personal progress
- Ensuring the child is using their hearing aid/CI/ Radio Aid (RA) optimally (if appropriate)
- Following and implementing ToD advice and strategies as outlined in the LIP
- Using Deaf Friendly strategies and modifying experiences and making reasonable adjustments to address the needs of the child
- Managing the acoustics of the EY environment to ensure equitable access to learning
- Using the Portable Soundfield System as advised
- Contacting the ToD immediately should any concerns arise linked to hearing, behaviour, Social and emotional, and academic learning
- Ensuring the HI child's social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) is carefully monitored and that they feel safe in the EY's environment
- Providing an appropriate room to enable the child to engage optimally in ToD assessments and one-to-one sessions
- Providing data to Sensory Support Service's Hearing Team as requested to ensure best outcomes for the child (e.g. EYFS, questionnaires)

# Contact Details



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