

Guide to partnership working in mainstream schools



Children and young people receiving occupational therapy,
physiotherapy and/or speech and language therapy

Once children reach school age, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy will usually involve close working with both parents and school staff.

“Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much”
(Helen Keller)

The children’s therapy team has collaborated with schools and parents to produce a good practice guide to working together which is available at:

www.nlg.nhs.uk



This aims to ensure that we all have clear expectations of each other – and understand how we can work together to support children and young people in school and at home.

The good practice guide suggests that as parents, therapists, and school staff we all have an important part to play when it comes to:

- Sharing what we know about the child and our experience of what works
- Deciding together where the child is succeeding – and where they need support
- Taking into account the child’s views
- Agreeing priorities and areas to focus on
- Contributing to an action plan – and, if we have promised to do something, making sure it happens
- Keeping in touch with each other – about what is working well and any changes or issues
- Agreeing a timescale for reviewing progress – and contributing to this

But we all have our own distinctive contribution to make too:

The children’s therapy team can support children and young people by...

Providing training for school staff and specialist advice / support for parents
Working alongside school staff and parents - when needed - to demonstrate useful techniques
Assessing children’s needs and highlighting areas to work on
Writing up an action plan – with specific therapy advice / activities included
Responding quickly to any queries or messages – and helping to solve problems
Working with the school and parents to monitor progress and update the action plan – within the agreed timescale
Making contact with the school / parents at least once a term whilst the child remains under their care

School staff can support children and young people by...

When needed, releasing staff for training – or to work alongside therapy staff
Providing information about how the child is doing at school, highlighting priorities, and explaining what support is available
Linking therapy suggestions into the child’s overall learning plan
If extra support has been agreed, making sure this is provided
Monitoring day to day progress
Staying in contact with parents to ensure a good home/school link
Keeping in touch with the therapist and including the therapist in any relevant meetings or discussions

Parents can support their children by...

Sharing their knowledge of their child – their interests, motivations, personality, challenges and skills
Explaining what is important from a family perspective – and what has and hasn’t worked well in the past
Using the advice and help provided
Getting involved as much as possible
Staying in contact with the school and therapist
Highlighting successes, concerns and issues

For more information about services, please contact:

Children's Therapy Team
Scawby House
Wrawby Rd
Brigg
DN20 8GS

Or you can contact the team on Tel: 01724 203755

