

### Come along to a Chatterbox Group if you:

- are you worried about your child's talking or communication?
- have questions about his/her speech or language?
- would you like some advice, strategies or tips?

### What are Chatterbox groups?

Chatterbox Groups are groups for Croydon families with children under the age of 5 years old who have concerns about their child's talking or interaction. They are run jointly by Speech and Language Therapy staff, Best Start Early Help Group workers and Children's Centres across the borough to promote, encourage and support speech, language and communication development. **Please arrive at the start of the session to get the maximum benefit for both you and your child.**



Telephone interpreting services are widely available for families whose first language is not English.

## Chatterbox tips...

- **Follow your child's lead:** Let your child choose what to play with and how to play with it - join in with them
- Play with and talk with your child on his/her level: **face to face, eye to eye**
- **Watch your child** and talk about what s/he is doing. Try not to ask lots of questions or tell him/her what to do
- **Listen to your child:**  
**Repeat** the words your child says or tries to say (e.g. child: "tar", adult: "yes, car")  
And **add new words** to what your child says (e.g. "a big red car")
- Give your child **time to interact & talk** with you: pause after you speak
- Use **easy words** and **short, simple sentences**
- Use **actions, gestures and expressions** when you talk
- Use your **first, strongest language** with your child
- Give your child **lots of praise and encouragement**

# Chatterbox Groups April 2018- July 2018

(Including April 2018 Centre closures)  
Highlighted in the Croydon NHS Trust  
CQC inspection report as a service that  
delivers "Outstanding Practice"

- June 2015

*Drop-in groups to promote,  
support and encourage your  
child's speech, language and  
communication development*

If you have any queries, please contact:  
[Beststartearlyhelp1@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Beststartearlyhelp1@croydon.gov.uk)  
or  
CH-TR.SLTcroydonchildren@nhs.net

  
For your new and growing family

Croydon  
Children's Speech & Language Therapy  
Service

Communication  
changes lives

Updated March 2018

## What do we do at Chatterbox?



Play opportunities to promote speech, language & communication development.

Advice, tips and strategies from Speech and Language Therapy staff, Best Start Early Help Group workers

and Children's Centre staff.

Time to **share a book** with your child: follow his/her interests, talk about the pictures as well as the words.



**Snack time:** the children share a healthy snack and drink; this is a great time to model language by offering your child choices.



Group story, song and rhyme time

To get the most from Chatterbox groups...



*Give your child your full attention*



*please don't use your mobile phone.  
Do not use a dummy or a bottle with children over a year old.*

*Please support your child to join in the routine*

## Days and Locations

A Speech and Language Therapist is present on the first session of every month. A Speech and Language Therapy Assistant is generally present every week. **Please contact the centre directly during school holidays, as timetables are subject to change by the centres during these times.**

### Mondays

Malling Close Children's Centre. 12:30pm-2:30pm  
Lead Therapist- Jo Drake  
Tel: 020 8655 5680  
Malling Close, Addiscombe, Croydon, CR0 7YD

**This centre will be closed on Monday 2nd April 2018 (Easter Monday/Public Holiday), Monday 7th May 2018 and Monday 28th May for the Public/Bank holidays.**

### Tuesdays

Aerodrome Children's Centre 9:30am-11:30am  
Lead Therapist- Jayne Nicholls  
Tel: 020 8688 7710  
Violet Lane, Croydon CR0 4HN

Winterbourne Children's Centre 1:00pm-2:30pm  
Lead Therapist- Jayne Nicholls  
Tel: 020 8689 0978  
Winterbourne Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 7QT

**This centre will be closed between 23rd July until 3rd August 2018. Therefore there will be no Chatterbox sessions on 24th July & 31st July**

### Wednesdays

Good Shepherd Children's Hub 9:30am-11:15am  
Lead Therapist- Laura Harle  
Tel: 01689 841771  
Dunley Drive, New Addington, CR0 0RG

**This centre is always closed during school holidays. Therefore, Chatterbox sessions will not take place on the following dates; 4th April 2018, 11th April 2018 and 30th May 2018. The centre closes on the 20th July for the entire school summer holiday.**

### Wednesdays continued...

Shirley Children's Centre 9.30am-11.15am  
Lead Therapist- Jo Drake  
Tel: 020 8777 2119  
34 Lilac Gardens, Shirley, CR0 8NR

### Thursdays

Selhurst Children's Centre 9:30am-11:30am  
Lead Therapist- Faith Brooks  
Tel: 020 8684 3777  
23 Dagnall Park, South Norwood, SE25 5PL

Woodlands Children's Centre 1pm-2:45pm  
Lead Therapist- Faith Brooks  
Tel: 020 8916 0543  
Farnborough Avenue, Selsdon, CR2 8HD

**This centre will be closed during the week beginning 2nd April 2018. Therefore, the Chatterbox group will not take place on Thursday 5th April 2018.**

### Fridays

Purley Oaks Children's Centre 9:30am-11:00am  
Lead Therapists- Ruth Wheeler  
Tel: 020 8325 4518  
Bynes Road, South Croydon, CR2 0PR

**This centre will be closed on Friday 30th March 2018 (Good Friday /Public Holiday)**

Kensington Avenue Children's Centre 1pm-2:30pm  
Lead Therapist- Faith Brooks  
Tel: 0208765 8128, Kensington Ave, access via Hawthorn Avenue, Thornton Heath, CR7 8BW