

Welcome to Sheffield Small Talk: Supporting Children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs and their Parents/Carers and Families



Held on Tuesday mornings (10am to 12pm)
At the Philippa Cottam Communication Clinic

Department of Human Communication Sciences
Mushroom Lane
University of Sheffield
Sheffield
S10 2TN



Sheffield Small Talk was shortlisted for a Shine a Light award from The Communications Trust
www.thecommunicationstrust.org.uk

Hello

Sheffield Small Talk is a support group for parents/carers of pre-school children with speech, language and communication needs. We would like parents and carers to be part of Sheffield Small Talk and to bring their children with them to the group. We can offer speech and language therapy to the children who attend through our speech and language therapy students. We work closely with the NHS Sheffield Speech and Language Therapy service, in particular the Sheffield Children's Hospital and the Ryegate Children's Centre. Children who attend the hospital or are in the hospital are very welcome to join us.

We are Melanie Hargreaves, Judy Clegg, Carla Rohde and Helen Cameron and we run Sheffield Small Talk. Genna White and Sarah Hooker are two parents who are also involved in setting up and running Sheffield Small Talk and Sheffield Big Talk.

Melanie, Genna and Sarah are all parents of children with speech, language and communication needs. Judy is a Senior Lecturer and speech and language therapist, Carla is a speech and language therapist and Helen is a University Teacher, speech and language therapist and a PhD student. Judy and Helen work in the Human Communication Sciences Department at the University of Sheffield.

Sheffield Small Talk meets on **Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12pm** throughout the year. The first date for this year is Tuesday September 29th 2015. We run some individual sessions over the school summer holidays rather than the group. Please do get in touch for more details.

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

1. Parents and carers of pre-school children with speech, language and communication needs in Sheffield are keen to meet up and support each other.
2. We offer an important opportunity for children from the Sheffield Children's Hospital to come and play with other children and for their parents/carers to support one another.
3. Children who come along to Sheffield Small 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 do not have any targets then we can discuss offering appropriate support.
4. We all feel that raising the awareness of children with speech, language and communication needs is really important. Setting up and being involved in Sheffield Small Talk is one way of raising awareness.
5. Our speech and language therapy students are keen to meet with and learn more about working with pre-school children. 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 young children with speech, language and communication needs.

About the group

The basic structure of the morning is as follows:

10 am to 10:30am: Arrive, welcome and settling in

10:30am – 11:30am: Activities with the speech and language therapy students and staff. This is the time for parents and carers to talk and support one other, and to take part in parent/carer activities.

11:30pm – 12pm: Play, feedback and close

Note: Parents/carers and children are welcome to arrive/leave at any time.

The aim is to be informal and supportive. Although we obviously plan to help parents/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 are aiming for Sheffield Small Talk to have a strong presence in Sheffield. We work closely with the NHS Sheffield Speech and Language Therapy Service in developing Sheffield Small Talk and the service supports parents/carers and their children to attend the group. The Ryegate Children's Centre is also very supportive of the group and we are listed on the Sheffield Council Local Offer as well.

Before each Tuesday, Tanya Berresford and/or Jacqui Watson (clinical support staff) will contact you by email to confirm if you are attending the group or not. There is no requirement to attend every week but it is helpful in our planning to know approximately the number of parents/carers and children who will be coming along. Please do not worry about arriving on time either and again, if you can let us know if this is the case then that is very helpful to us.

How to get here

We are on Mushroom Lane which is next to the Western Park Museum and very near the Sheffield Children's Hospital (less than 5 minutes walk). The full address is the Philippa Cottam Communication Clinic, Department of Human Communication Sciences, Mushroom Lane, University of Sheffield Sheffield S10 2TS. There is a photograph of the building on the front page of this leaflet.

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. We have three parking spaces that can be used and these will need to be requested each week by contacting Tanya by email. Allocation will be on a first requested basis. There is also on street parking around

the area including Crookes and Broomhill. Please do ask us if you need advice about parking as do know of nearby places.

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 £2.50 per week 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 nor 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 Small Talk.

How to contact us

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

j.clegg@sheffield.ac.uk or Jacqui.watson@sheffield.ac.uk

If you would like to discuss the group with any of the parents, their details are below:

Melanie can be contacted on

melhargreaves@hotmail.co.uk

Genna can be contacted on 07967 135505

gennabayston@icloud.com

Sarah can be contacted on 07870 270844

SarahJoseph92@hotmail.com

We hope you will join us and enjoy the group!

Melanie, Judy, Carla and Helen

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

Our speech and language therapy students can work with children who attend Sheffield Small Talk to facilitate their speech, language and communication development. This can take place individually and/or in small groups of children and parents/carers are very welcome to observe this and to be involved as they wish to. The activities are all child-led and focus on play and having fun.