

## What are Chatterbox groups?

Chatterbox Groups are groups for Croydon families with children aged 4 years old and under who have concerns about their child's talking or interaction. They are run by the Chatterbox team which includes the Speech and Language Therapy Team and Children's Centres staff across the borough. The groups are designed to promote, encourage and support speech, language and communication development in pre-school aged children.

## What happens at a Chatterbox group session?

Chatterbox groups have an emphasis on parents/carers playing and actively engaging with their child using strategies that are proven to enhance speech and language development. These interactions are supported by the Chatterbox team. At the Chatterbox session, there will be:

- **Play opportunities** for parents/carers and children to promote speech, language & communication development.
- **Advice, tips and strategies** from the Chatterbox team regarding how to support their child's speech, language and communication skills.
- A **snack time** when the children share a healthy snack and drink. This is a great time to model language by offering children choices and parents/carer's are actively encouraged to get involved!
- Time to **share a book** between parents/carers and their child: follow the child's interests, talk about the pictures as well as the words.
- A **structured time** for a whole group story, song time and activities to help to develop the children's attention and listening skills

## **To get the most from Chatterbox groups parents/carers should:**

- *Arrive at the start of the session as advertised on the flyer*
- *Give your child your full attention*
- *Not use your mobile phone at all during the session*
- *Make the most of the time available to play and engage with your child!*

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

# Chatterbox Groups

## April - July 2023

Highlighted in the Croydon NHS Trust CQC inspection report as a service that delivers "**Outstanding Practice**"

Targeted groups to promote, support and encourage your child's speech, language and communication development

If you have any queries, please contact:

020 8714 2594

CH-TR.SLTcroydonchildren@nhs.net



Croydon  
Children's Speech & Language Therapy  
Service

Communication  
changes lives

## Days and Locations

These sessions are drop in sessions and are first come first served. To ensure the sessions are health and safety compliant, attendee numbers are limited for each group, in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. If maximum attendee numbers are reached, you may be asked to attend a different session.

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.

**Please arrive as close to the start of the session as possible, to ensure you can access the session and so your child can make the most of the valuable play opportunities and overall structure of the session.**

All children's centres deliver a wide programme of activities across the borough. Chatterbox is a specific session, focusing on providing support and advice around speech, language and communication. Ask for information on other activities at your local centre, that your child may enjoy and benefit from.

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### Mondays

**Selhurst Children's Centre**, 9:30am-11:00am  
Tel: 020 8684 3777  
23 Dagnall Park, South Norwood, SE25 5PL

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### Tuesdays

**Kensington Avenue Children's Centre** 1pm-2:30pm  
Tel: 020 8684 3777  
Buckingham Avenue, Thornton Heath, CR7 8AS

**Woodlands Children's Centre** 1pm-2:30pm  
Tel: 020 8916 0543  
Farnborough Avenue, Selsdon, CR2 8HD



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### Wednesdays

**Byron Children's Centre** 9.30am-11.00am  
Tel: 020 8763 6285  
St David's, Coulsdon, CR5 2XE

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### Thursdays

**Shirley Children's Centre** 9.30am-11.00am  
Tel: 020 8684 3777  
34 Lilac Gardens, Shirley, CR0 8NR  
**Please note a change in time for this session. Chatterbox at Shirley will now take place on Thursday mornings.**

**Castle Hill Children's Centre Hub** 1pm-2:30pm  
Tel: 01689 664 570  
Dunley Drive, New Addington, CR0 0RJ  
**Castle Hill Children's Centre will be closed during school holidays**

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### Fridays

**Winterbourne Children's Centre** 9.30am-11:00am  
Tel: 020 8684 3777  
Winterbourne Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 7QT