

Schaffhausen Early Speech Therapy Counselling is responsible for children from age two to Kindergarten age with noticeable speech development issues.

When is it advisable to have early speech therapy counselling?

- if you are not sure, whether your child can express him or herself in an age-appropriate way
- if your child frequently repeats questions or you have the feeling the child's hearing is impaired
- if your child withdraws because he/she is not readily understood
- if your child stammers or speaks hastily
- if your child speaks only at home but never outside
- if other people have difficulties understanding your child

What do we offer?

Diagnosis

Once your child is enrolled for early speech therapy counselling, an initial diagnosis will be made. This is based on games the child plays with a therapist who observes how the child makes contact and communicates, how self-confident the child is, how it plays and uses its motor skills, and how it perceives the world around it. The therapist then discusses his or her observations with the parents and explains potential next steps.

Therapy

If therapy is required, there will be a first phase (3-4 months) with two therapy sessions per week. The aim of the therapy is to develop the child's interest and enjoyment in games, and strengthen its self-confidence and independence. In the process, the child should be able to experience how important it is to use language to communicate, to be understood and to understand other people.

Counselling

Counselling is designed primarily for parents but can be extended to include anyone involved in the child's development. Counselling sessions work on the basis of open, respectful and trusting collaboration with parents.

It is also possible to make use of the counselling service only to clarify specific questions.

How to register?

The registration can be made directly by the parents, by the paediatrician, by the family practitioner or by other services. It must always be approved by the parents.

When is the right time to register?

To avoid time pressure, it is advisable to seek early clarification and advice. Therapeutic support is most efficient when continued for one to two phases with breaks. **For a place in therapy to be guaranteed, children should be registered between the ages of 24 and 36 months.** Parents who register their children later can generally be supported only with counselling.

Who has to bear the expenses?

The expenses for diagnosis, therapy and counselling will be borne by the canton of Schaffhausen as long as the children are resident here.