



Speech-and-language-therapy.com
Susie Gowers – Independent Speech and Language Therapist



Independent Speech and Language Therapy in Shropshire

I am Susie Gowers (BSc Hons, SLPT, MRCSLT, HPC, MASLTIP), a highly experienced Speech and Language Therapist offering assessment and therapy to a wide range of children of nursery, primary and secondary school age.

On average 3 children in every classroom will have difficulties with communication. In some parts of the UK the number is higher. Learning, literacy and the ability to make friends can all be affected.

Listening, speaking, understanding and socialising are crucial to us all. Some children need help to develop these skills. I specialise in designing tailor-made therapy, working in close partnership with those adults who are closest to the child.

How can I help?

- Developing first words and early sentences
- Understanding questions and instructions
- Using speech sounds
- Grammar
- Social skills
- Remembering words

What next?

If you are unsure whether your child needs Speech & Language therapy, or if you would like to discuss your child's development, I would be happy to address your concerns. Please feel free to call me for a confidential, no-obligation chat.

My phone numbers are:

Home: 01746 785502

Mobile: 07890 412992

Alternatively contact me by email: susie.gowers@gmail.com

Please read on for further in-depth information about my work and services.

About me

I qualified as a Speech and Language Therapist in 1988, having studied and graduated in Birmingham. I took up an NHS post in the West Midlands, working with a variety of speech and language disorders in adults and children. After approximately five years of working in hospitals and special and mainstream schools, I was drawn to specialise in children's speech and language difficulties.

I live in Shropshire with my husband and daughter. I have first-hand experience of the statementing (EHCP) process, with its benefits and frustrations. I have been able to use this experience to support families in similar situations.



About the children I see

I treat a wide range of speech and language difficulties. These include:

- Difficulties understanding or remembering what has just been said
- Struggling to recall words or construct sentences
- Problems with pronunciation of speech sounds
- Specific difficulty with social interaction and friendships
- Speech and language difficulties associated with poor reading and spelling development

About my work

The geographical area in which I work is centred on Shropshire, but on occasion I am able to take on clients in Worcestershire and the West Midlands (west of Birmingham).

I will arrange to meet with a parent of carer at the initial assessment. This allows me to gain a fuller picture of your child's strengths and weaknesses, and to understand your concerns.

Following assessment you will be given verbal feedback, and there are then a range of options you may wish to consider, including:

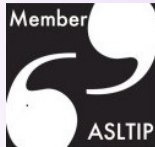
- Advice and strategies to use at home, with progress reviewed as necessary
- One-to-one therapy at home, nursery or school
- Detailed report of assessment findings with recommendations
- Referral to another agency

Memberships

I hold memberships of the following professional organisations:



Health and Care Professionals Council



Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice



Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know my Speech and Language Therapist is registered?

Since October 2000 all Speech and Language therapists have had to register with the Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC). This is one of eight regulators of health professionals. Their main object is to safeguard the health and well-being of those needing or using the services of registrants. Anybody who is using the title "Speech and Language Therapist", and who is not registered is liable to prosecution.

You should ask to see your therapist's HCPC registration document. Alternatively you can contact the HCPC direct to confirm registration.

HCPC UK registration department: 0845 300 4472

Sue Gowers is also a registered member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT). This is a nationally recognised professional body which promotes the continual improvement of standards and the professional development of its accredited members.

RCSLT: 0207 378 1200, www.rcslt.org.uk

How long will I have to wait for an appointment?

Appointments can usually be made within a fortnight.

How long will therapy last?

This varies from child to child, and depends on a number of factors. These include the severity and type of problem, the child's motivation and attention skills and the amount of support available at home, school or nursery to support the child's therapy targets.

Where will you see my child?

Children can be seen in a variety of settings. I can visit you at home, see your child at nursery or school, or even a mixture of these.

Can my child receive online therapy?

Many therapists offer this service, particularly since the pandemic. However I believe in face-to-face therapy in order to build a good relationship with your child, and consequently do not offer an online service.

Do I have to choose between private and NHS therapy?

Absolutely not. The aim of all therapy should be for the benefit of the child. The best possible therapy plan should be created collaboratively by all the therapists involved.

Testimonials

Mrs F O - Special Needs Teacher and mother of 10 year old boy with developmental language disorder.

Initial assessment

I felt Sue listened to the case history of my son and was interested in his development so far. We had a long talk on the phone and then a meeting before she met my son. She gained as much knowledge about the way he behaved and communicated as she could before she met him so that she could make him feel at ease during her observations and assessments.

After the assessment Sue spent time talking through her assessments and findings with me.

Style and Manner

Sue has a very relaxed, reassuring manner who was friendly and professional on all occasions.

Liaison with school

Sue observed my son in school during his lessons with his peers and assessed him in a quiet one to one situation. She was able to talk to the SENCO and Class teacher for their input. She also attended a meeting in school with the SENCO, Class teacher, Teaching Assistant and myself where we were all able to discuss the advice she gave us. We discussed possible ways of implementing it in the classroom and practicing at home.

Sue provided some useful advice and strategies for improving listening strategies, pre teaching vocabulary, barrier games and the use of communication aids including visual cues in the classroom.

Progress

Sue's advice did highlight some useful areas which we could develop in the classroom. ie communication skills, listening skills and visual prompts. Motivational methods of keeping him on task and ways of developing and improving attention.

Mrs S W - Mother of a pre-school age boy with speech disorder.

After weeks of waiting for an NHS appointment I felt deeply concerned about how "W" was settling into school and fitting in with the other children.

I contacted a number of independent therapists in the local area who posted information to me. When I telephoned Sue Gowers I was immediately impressed and calmed by her manner. She took the time to discuss my concerns and suggested that we had an initial assessment following which we could decide how to progress.

We chose to see Sue at home. W and I were both put at ease by Sue's friendly, cheerful personality and the session was very relaxed. The assessment feedback gave me a clear understanding of W's difficulties. I found the information helpful and encouraging.

We continued to see Sue on a weekly basis, she got know W very quickly and invented games to suit his needs and personality. Sue also taught the family how to help and encourage W. Sue liaised with the school, keeping them involved in W's development.

W thoroughly enjoyed Sue's visits, and I was amazed how quickly he learnt. We saw daily improvements in his speech and confidence. After a few months of weekly/ fortnightly sessions and periodic reviews there was a dramatic change in W's speech and he was removed from the special needs register.

He is now in his first full year at school, his sessions with Sue have improved his self-confidence. He loves reading and thoroughly enjoys school life.

Mrs T K - Special Needs Co-ordinator in a Shropshire primary school

Sue Gowers is a highly regarded and highly effective therapist who has successfully helped a number of pupils at our school. Sue creates and continually adapts her intervention programmes to ensure the therapy is not just “off the shelf” but personalised, engaging and fun.

A particular strength is the regular communication with both school and parents. Sue reports back after each session and keeps all parties informed of proposed next steps. Parents appreciate this level of involvement in their child’s therapy and schools welcome the opportunity to regularly discuss progress and any issues that arise. Sue encourages feedback and input from all parties, including the child receiving the therapy.

I have no hesitation in recommending Sue as a Speech and Language Therapist. She is a delight to work with and she is an extremely skilled and professional practitioner.

T T - Secondary school pupil with memory and organisational difficulties

The first lesson I had with Sue I was very nervous because I didn’t know what was going to happen but I soon began to enjoy them. In the 6 weeks I felt my memory had improved significantly because she showed me helpful ways to memorise things, and I was more confident. At the beginning I would say “I can’t do that” but now I say “Let’s give it a go”. Now I find it a lot easier to try things in lessons and feel that I have found school less overwhelming.

Mr and Mrs M - Parents whose son has dyslexia and associated language impairment

We can’t thank Sue enough for the work she has done with our son. Prior to working with Sue, “R” was struggling with school life and lacked self-confidence due to his speech and language difficulties.

Sue has worked in partnership with ourselves, school and the speech & language department to develop a programme to support R with his learning difficulties. In addition Sue assisted us in obtaining a “Statement” which now gives R 15 hours 1:1 time per week with a teaching assistant. The transformation in R is remarkable.

Prior to Sue’s involvement he was over two years behind in all his school work. Now, in the majority of his school work, he is within the average range for his age.

Sue’s positive approach to R’s speech and language difficulties has also helped us as parents. She helped alleviate our fears and made us feel less isolated. We would have no hesitation in recommending Sue.

Below are the following forms which will need to be signed by a child's parent or legal guardian before I can legally commence and assessment and/or course of therapy:

Terms and Conditions
Parental Consent to Treatment
Professional Liaison Consent
Data Protection Policy

Please be aware that signing any of these forms implies acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.



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Independent Speech and Language Therapist

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Terms And Conditions

Effective September 2022

Pre-Assessment

Prior to the start of treatment, parents or guardians will be asked to read and sign a copy of these Terms & Conditions. If these are not signed prior to commencement of the first session, the therapist will be unable to proceed with the initial assessment. However, a charge may still be made for the full session.

Initial Consultation

This can take place in the child's home, nursery or school, to suit the parent or carer. It will generally last for around an hour and a half, which will include a detailed discussion with a parent or guardian prior to seeing the child. Background information will be gathered to help inform the assessment process. This may include details of the child's birth history, general development to date, any speech and language therapy that has taken place previously, family history of speech, language and communication skills, and information about other areas of learning.

An assessment will then begin to identify the nature of any speech, language and communication needs.

A verbal report of the assessment's findings will be given at the end of this session, where possible, and a discussion will take place regarding whether further assessment or therapy sessions are required. If a parent or guardian is not able to stay until the end of the session, detailed feedback regarding assessment findings will be emailed to them, usually on the same day. This will also be copied in to professionals concerned with the child (with parental permission).

Therapy Sessions

The duration of a therapy session will depend on the age and attention level of the child, but typically sessions last around 45 minutes to an hour. Sessions can take place in the child's home, nursery or school. A parent, guardian or other responsible adult (e.g member of school staff) **MUST** be in the same building whilst the therapy session is taking place. It is most useful if at least one such person is directly involved in the session.

Further Involvement

Contact may need to be made with the child's school, pre-school or other educational setting in order to get a fuller picture of the child's needs. This will be discussed, and no contact with school or nursery will be made without the consent of the child's parent or legal guardian.

Distribution of Reports

Written reports will be provided at the request of parents. It is in the best interests of the child that verbal and/or written reports are shared between the therapist and other relevant professionals. This will only be done with parental permission.

Child Safety

During all appointments, a parent, guardian or other adult responsible for the child will be required to be present in the building.

Cancellation Policy

For failed appointments, where no cancellation has been made, the client may be liable to the full charge of the session fee (including travel costs if incurred). Notice of cancellation is normally required at least 24 hours prior to the appointment. Appointments cancelled less than 24 hours before the appointment may be charged the full session rate. If the child is due to be seen in school, it is the responsibility of the child's parent/guardian to inform the therapist if the child is absent from school on the day of the appointment, or unable to attend for any other reason.

Other Services

Training sessions and talks are available for groups of parents and professionals, and can be geared to specific areas of interest. These will be charged at a rate negotiated with the person or organisation responsible for requesting the session(s).

Service Limitations

The service is unable to provide back-up therapy should the speech and language therapist be unable to attend due to sickness or another unavoidable event.

In a minority of cases, it may be the therapist's professional opinion that speech therapy is not necessary or is not being effective. In such cases, the therapist will advise parents immediately. The therapist reserves the professional right to refuse treatment or withdraw from a course of treatment at any time.

Data Protection

Prior to the initial consultation, clients will be made aware of the policy regarding the holding and use of client information. They will be requested to read, sign and return this on the first session to indicate they have understood and agree to its contents.

The service has no contracts with private medical insurers. Any claims from medical companies are the sole responsibility of the client.

Fees

Initial Consultation (including full case history and verbal report)	£105.00	
Subsequent assessment sessions	£85.00	
Meetings (up to 10 minutes not charged) (per hour, pro rata)	£85.00	
Individual assessment sessions	£85.00	
Written reports (per hour, pro rata)	£85.00	Minimum

NB A 10% discount is applied to therapy sessions when pre-booked in blocks of 6 or more, if payment is made in advance.

No additional charges will be made for:

- Telephone calls
- Preparing for sessions or writing up case notes after each session
- Resources provided for home and school practice
- Consulting room rental (unless used at the specific request of the client)
- Equipment rental or purchase.

Travel Costs

Travel expenses are charged at 50p per mile. These will be based on the return distance from my base in Easthope, Shropshire to the location of the session. Travel time is not charged.

Payment

All fees are payable within 7 days of the invoice date. Invoices will normally be raised on the day of the consultation.

The preferred payment method is direct bank transfer, for which the account details are shown on each invoice. However cash or cheques are also accepted; cheques made payable to *Sue Gowers*.

A £15 fee may be levied for each week of late payment.

Agreement

In signing any of the documents listed below you are accepting these Terms & Conditions:

Sue Gowers – Parental Consent To Assessment And Treatment

Sue Gowers – Professional Liaison Consent

Sue Gowers - Data Protection Policy



Sue Gowers

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Parental Consent To Treatment

I consent to my son / daughter being assessed by Sue Gowers in nursery / pre-school / school / home on

..... (Date)

I consent to my son / daughter being seen for speech and language therapy at an agreed venue.

I understand that, following the initial assessment, I will be informed about the nature and frequency of the recommended input, and that I will be informed should this change at any time.

I understand that I have the right to withdraw my child from therapy at any time.

In signing this document I am also accepting the Terms & Conditions, detailed separately.

Child's Name:

Child's Date of Birth:

Signed:

Relationship to child:

Date:



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Professional Liaison Consent

In order to assist in the most effective assessment and treatment for my child, I consent to Sue Gowers obtaining or sharing information about him / her with the following parties (*please tick as appropriate*):

- Head Teacher
- Class Teacher
- Special Needs Co-ordinator
- Teaching Assistant
- Educational Psychologist
- NHS Speech & Language Therapy Department
- GP
- Paediatrician
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Child Psychiatrist
- Others (please list)

.....

.....

.....

- Any Professional

In signing this document I am also accepting the Terms & Conditions, detailed separately.

Child's Name:

Child's Date of Birth:

Signed:

Relationship to child:

Date:



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Data Protection Policy

Sue Gowers is registered under the Data Protection Act to hold records for the purpose of providing and administering patient care.

Registration number: PZ8951989

This statement sets out my policy in relation to the holding and use of information which I may obtain from you or other sources.

Declaration Of Principles

All aspects of my Data Protection Policy and the processes applied to support it comply with the terms of the General Data Protection Regulations, which became the defining framework for all data management in the EU, including the UK, on 23rd May 2018.

There is one facet in which UK regulations relating to health service professionals constitute a waiver to the provisions of the GDPR. This concerns the so-called "right to be forgotten", under which clients may request that all data relating to them be deleted. Health service regulations require that all notes describing treatment and therapy be retained by the practitioner for 7 years from the date of the final treatment session or until the patient's 25th birthday, whichever is later.

Detail

The following information about your child will be held by me:

Case history, assessment results, records of assessment and therapy sessions, conversations with parents and other professionals, and copies of reports from other professionals. Exceptionally this may include audio and/or video recordings with the prior permission of the parent or guardian.

Information will only be obtained from, or disclosed to, people directly involved in the care of your child. Information will only be exchanged with the explicit consent of the child's parent or guardian (see the Professional Liaison Consent form, downloadable from my *Downloadable Forms* page). Should it subsequently become necessary to expand the distribution beyond the initial list, permission will be sought from the parent/guardian.

In order to comply with the standards of good practice recommended by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) it is advisable to notify the local SLT department of my involvement with your child. Parents/guardians will be informed of this recommendation and their consent sought prior to treatment, but consent is not obligatory and will not be assumed.

You will be asked to sign a copy of this policy to indicate your acceptance before the commencement of treatment. This is available from my *Downloadable Forms* page.

Agreement

I have read, understand and accept the terms of the Data Protection Policy described above.

In signing this document I am also accepting the Terms & Conditions, detailed separately.

Child's Name:

Child's Date of Birth:

Signed:

Relationship to child:

Date: