

What are Chatterbox groups?

Chatterbox Groups are groups for Croydon families with children aged 5 years old and under (under school reception age) 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. Families are welcome to attend as many sessions as they wish.

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 your child's speech, language and communication skills.
- **Relaxing time** Deep pressure activities can reduce over stimulation from fast excitatory movement and busy multisensory environments (free play). It allows children to better cope with stress and overstimulation, improve concentration and support transition to more structured activities.
- Time to **share a book** between parents/carers and their child. This is a great time to model language by offering children choices, follow the child's interests and talking about the pictures using short simple phrases.
- A **structured time** for a whole group story, song time and activities to help to develop your 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.

Croydon
Children's Speech & Language Therapy
Service



Chatterbox Groups

September 2025

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



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 member of the Speech and Language Therapy team 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.

Mondays

Selhurst Children's Centre, 9:30am-11:00am

Tel: 020 8684 3777

23 Dagnall Park, South Norwood, SE25 5PL

Closed 8th September 2025

Winterbourne Children's Centre 1pm-2.30pm

Tel: 020 8684 3777

Winterbourne Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 7QT

Closed 8th September 2025

Tuesdays

Kensington Avenue Children's Centre 9.30am-11.00am

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

Wednesdays

Byron Children's Centre: CLOSED until further notice

Thursdays

Shirley Children's Centre 9.30am-11.00am

Tel: 020 8684 3777

34 Lilac Gardens, Shirley, CR0 8NR

Woodlands Children's Centre 1pm-2:30pm

Tel: 020 8916 0543

Farnborough Avenue, Selsdon, CR2 8HD

Fridays

Winterbourne Children's Centre 9.30am-11:00am

Tel: 020 8684 3777

Winterbourne Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 7QT

Closed 5th September 2025
