

Speech and Language support for children on the Health Bus

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's Children and Young People's (CYPF) Speech and Language team are going on tour around Berkshire this month on the Trust's Health Bus.

The team will be on hand in both Reading and Slough, to speak to members of the public about their child's speech and language needs, from subjects such as bilingualism and speech sounds, to autism and cleft palate. The team will also be running Early Language Development workshops, which are designed for parents, carers and those working within early years settings.

Visiting Slough

The Health Bus will be at the Salt Hill Park Activity Centre car park, in Slough on **Wednesday 13 September 9am – 12pm**. From 10am - 11am, the team will be running the 'Communication Building Blocks' workshop, which covers how you can support your child in increasing their number of words and phrases in their early language development.

Visiting Reading

On **Wednesday 20 September 9am – 12pm**, the Health Bus will be in Reading at Morrisons, Basingstoke Road, where from 10am – 11am, the 'Scaffolding Communication' workshop will be running. This workshop shows how you can use gestures, objects, and pictures to support your child's development.

Both workshops are also available online, further information can be found on the [CYPF website](#).

The Berkshire Healthcare Health Bus has been on the road since 2022, bringing the Trust's services into the heart of communities in Berkshire. It features state of the art facilities and a ramp to allow easier access for wheelchair users and those with mobility issues, as well as a private curtained area for people wishing to speak to a clinician in confidence, in a calming space.

Helen Wilson, (Speech and Language Therapist) said: "Taking our service out on the Health Bus enables us to reach as many people as possible in Berkshire. Alongside our usual monthly offer of online workshops, using the bus, we are providing a space for families to learn about communication development and to ask their questions. If you think this is something that would be useful to you, please do come down to one of the locations and have a chat with our team!"

Notes to editors:

- 1. About Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation**

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Berkshire Healthcare

NHS Foundation Trust

Trust provides specialist mental health and community health services to a population of around 900,000 within Berkshire. We operate from more than 100 sites across the county but the vast majority of the people we care for are supported in their own homes. We have 216 mental health inpatient beds and 180 community hospital beds in five locations. Visit www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk
The Trust is rated by the CQC as Outstanding.

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