



INTERPRETER'S WORKING WITH SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

GENERAL

- Speech and Language Therapist's (SLT's) are health professionals trained to assess, diagnose and treat a range of communication and eating/drinking difficulties. SLT's provide a service to a range of clients across all ages from newly born babies to older people.
- As a qualified interpreter you are expected to behave professionally and follow the SLT directions, as closely as possible. You should keep all information confidential and seek clarification if you are unsure. You **MUST** tell the SLT exactly what the client has said.
- An interpreter is expected to assist and facilitate communication.

PRE-SESSION

- Please obtain the name of the SLT that you are interpreting for.
- Please ensure that you arrive at least 10 minutes before the appointment time and you have all the appointment details with you. E.g. patients name, venue, etc.
- If requested please ring the client to confirm attendance, time and venue.
- Request to meet with the SLT prior to the session so that you can become aware of your role and direction.
- The client's confidentiality must be respected at all times. You will be provided with general information about the purpose of the appointment. Further details about the client may be revealed as the session progresses. You must **NOT** disclose this information to anybody, unless otherwise directed by the SLT.
- Ensure that you speak the same dialect as the client.
- If required please give the SLT information about culture, religious beliefs/customs and language and dialects. You may want to discuss cultural implications of using particular play, or assessment material.
- During the session, all interactions have to be interpreted, including those between the parent and child or parent and other family members/friends, or additional comments addressed to the interpreter.

- The seating needs to be arranged for the most direct communication. You may be required to sit on the floor and play with the child. Discuss the cultural appropriateness of seating with the SLT.
- You may be asked to play with the child, ensure you are comfortable with this.

DURING THE SESSION

- Ensure that you continue to interpret all interactions and conversations with yourself. If the client begins a lengthy conversation do not be afraid to ask for them to pause whilst you translate this information back to the SLT.
- If the client requests you not to tell the SLT what they have said. Please explain to the client this is not possible, because your role is to interpret everything that is said, and then inform the SLT what the client has said.
- As a qualified interpreter you will be aware that when the SLT speaks they will address the client and not you. Please ensure you follow this procedure during your interpretations.
- The SLT will use words, which are easily interpreted, avoiding ambiguous or complex language, and using short sentences. Request clarification if you do not follow the conversation or what requires interpretation.
- Moderate the speed of your speech and encourage the client to reduce his/her pace of speech. Ensure the pace of the session is appropriate for both parties to comprehend.
- Check assumptions and clarify language. Summarise and check what has been understood.
- The SLT needs to assess in detail the words and sentences the client understands without any other support. It is important that you do not change, repeat, break down or add words. Remember you are facilitating an assessment procedure.
- Therefore, during a language assessment session strictly copy what the SLT says and do not use any other means to communicate.

CONCLUDING THE SESSION

- Check with the client that they have understood everything.
- Allow the client to ask supplementary questions or seek clarification.
- Any non-verbal/observations should be fed back to the SLT.
- Make any necessary follow up sessions.