



TalkTools Oral Placement Therapy

Information About TalkTools Training.

Further Info

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Training

A limited number of TalkTools courses are available outside of the USA. We have endeavoured to bring the key classes to the UK and to run these on an annual basis where possible. All of the courses listed on this leaflet must be taught by a level 6 TalkTools instructor.

Training Levels

A therapist is not accredited by TalkTools until they have achieved level 3. From level 3 therapist skills are assessed, and accreditation given to those who achieve the required levels of competence.

Parents and caregivers can do the early levels of training. Only therapists with a professional qualification can complete training at level 3 onwards. Speech and language therapists (SLT), occupational therapists (OT) and behaviour analysts (BCBA) are the usual therapists who undertake TalkTools training. Therapists who work with TalkTools often have other qualifications as well. For example, Dysphagia, Makaton, Prompt, Hanen.

Please consider what else your TalkTools therapist is trained in to ensure they are the best person for your needs. E.g. BCBA's may be more suitable to work with a child with autism and behavioural difficulties, whereas an SLT with a dysphagia qualification would be the best person to work with a child with cerebral palsy and swallowing difficulties.

TalkTools Level One Therapist

Has attended the 2-day class ***A Three-Part Treatment Plan for Oral Motor Therapy*** (or viewed the DVD) and attended the 2 day class ***Feeding Therapy: A Sensory Motor Approach***.

Therapists trained to this level can use TalkTools therapy techniques as part of an overall therapy approach for their clients.

TalkTools Level Two Therapist

Has completed level 1 training requirements and has also attended the 2-day class ***Oral Motor Therapy: Assessment and Program Plan Development*** and the 1 day class ***Childhood Apraxia of Speech: The Oral-Motor Component***. (or viewed the DVD's) and has viewed the 3-hour DVD ***Assessment and Treatment of the Jaw***.

Therapists trained to this level can assess a client's specific needs and devise a TalkTools programme that they are working on in regular therapy sessions with their client.

TalkTools Level Three Therapist

Has completed the level 2 training requirements and has also taken part in 5 days of intensive education with a level 6 instructor, including observation of evaluations, program plan updates, and therapy sessions. Their skills have been evaluated by a level 6 instructor. They have passed a written test and submitted course work to a required standard. Level 3 therapists are accredited by TalkTools and are listed on www.talktools.com

Therapists trained to this level have an accredited level of knowledge and skills. They can provide in depth TalkTools evaluation sessions, programme plan update sessions and written programmes for parents and caregivers to work on as part of a home based programme. The therapist has been trained in how to write a home based programme and how to provide support for the parents or caregivers who are carrying out the programme.

TalkTools Level Four Therapist

Has completed the level 3 training requirements and has also completed the 2 day class ***Teaching Functional Speech to Non-Verbal Individuals with Autism and Related Disabilities: Applied Behaviour Analysis and Oral Placement Therapy***. They have also completed either:

Option #1: General – A minimum of 5 days of hands on personalized training from a Level Six instructor.

Option #2: Limited – A minimum of 3 days of hands on personalized training from a Level Six instructor. Training is limited to a specific area of specialization.

For both options #1 and #2 the therapist has demonstrated proficiency in working with clients with difficulties in the following areas: tone, sensory, feeding, and oral-motor affecting feeding and speech. They have submitted written course work and DVD evidence of their work to a required standard. Level 4 therapists are accredited by TalkTools and are listed on www.talktools.com

Therapists trained to this level are experts in the use of all aspects of TalkTools OPT. They can provide TalkTools OPT in the various ways listed for previous levels. They may also provide “Travel Clinics.”

A level 4 TalkTools therapist may also be invited to consider training at level 5 and 6 to become a TalkTools instructor.

Introductory Workshops

To progress through the TalkTools training levels there is a requirement that certain courses must have been completed. However some of these courses can be done at any time, or as stand alone workshops, depending on your training needs. These workshops are:

[A Three-Part Treatment Plan for Oral Motor Therapy](#)

An overall introduction to TalkTools, its background, philosophies and techniques. This class is great for therapists, parents, carers, therapy assistants, teachers and teaching assistants.

[Feeding Therapy: A Sensory Motor Approach](#)

An introductory level course with a focus on oral feeding difficulties. SLT's please note, this is not a RCSLT accredited dysphagia course.

[Teaching Functional Speech to Non-Verbal Individuals with Autism and Related Disabilities: Applied Behaviour Analysis and Oral Placement Therapy](#)

An introductory level course with a focus on autistic spectrum conditions and behaviour.