

# Chatterbox club

## Quotes from parents

### Speech and language therapy

"to talk to a speech therapist who knows your child and can give valuable tips / advice"

### crafts

"Both my children love the crafts."

"activities are well planned with good resources... always fun to do."

### Family

"benefitting from the social contact and from being with other young people"

"Giving the siblings the opportunity to mix with lots of children with DS and meet and talk to their friends,"

### Sing and sign

"it's good fun and encourages my child to sign and use his voice"

### Support

"lots of support, someone is always available for valuable advice and a chat. Lots of ideas are shared"

"Whatever the current challenge, someone else has already been there"

"We received a warm and friendly welcome"

Lucas Pickering is 20 months old and has attended 8 Chatterbox Sessions. He can now sign 20 words.

Mum says:

"I am shown ideas that I can repeat at home to encourage his understanding as well as speech. I have noticed a difference in Lucas since he started the SALT sessions... Lucas really enjoys sing and sign"



# Chatterbox club

Chatterbox club has been running for 7 years and we meet on the fourth Saturday of the month from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. We have about 40-50 families who regularly attend, 30 plus who have children enrolled for speech and language therapy (SLT). Children can play and refreshments are served by volunteers in the main hall. Arts and crafts are provided by Venture Arts, supported by a childcare worker, for all the children. We employ three speech therapists, who all have specialist training in the specific communication needs of individuals with Down's syndrome. They see our children (aged one to teenage) in groups throughout the morning. A signer does sing and sign sessions for all family members.

Chatterbox provides:

- An environment of mutual support where parents/carers can socialise and share information, tips and ideas.
- Speech and language therapists who model specific interventions and activities to support our children's communication skills. This gives parents knowledge and confidence, enabling them to be proactive in their child's development.
- The opportunity for all the family to learn some signs, which is a valuable support for children with Down's syndrome.
- An environment where children and their families can have fun and learn together.
- The chance for our children to meet and play with other children who have Down's syndrome.
- The opportunity for siblings of children with Down's syndrome to meet.
- Well thought out craft activities that are helpful to our children who have delayed fine motor skills.