



## SPEECH THERAPY

A Speech Therapist examines and rehabilitates children who have difficulties with speech or with understanding what they hear. When necessary, the Speech Therapist may refer the child to other specialists for further examinations. Bigger problems, like difficulties in learning to read and write can be reduced or prevented with a help of speech therapy.

There are many children under school age who attend speech therapy that is a part of Finnish health care. The therapy is offered free of charge to all customers.

Children are directed to speech therapy at the Child Health Clinic or at the nursery. The child's parents can also get in touch with a speech therapist if they are concerned about their child's linguistic development.

Each session of speech therapy takes about 45 minutes. At speech therapy, the children practice language with the help of different kinds of play and games. The child attends speech therapy either with his/her parents or the child meets the therapist alone. During the first meeting with a speech therapist, an interpreter will be asked to come along, if necessary. The length of the period for speech therapy depends on the child's needs and it is agreed on together with the parents. The family is given exercises to take home, which the parents can do with their child each day.