What are Chatterbox groups?
Chatterbox Groups are groups for Croydon families with children aged 4 years old and under who have concerns about their child’s talking or interaction. They are run by the Chatterbox team which includes Speech and Language Therapists and Assistants and Children’s Centres staff across the borough. The groups are designed to promote, encourage and support speech, language and communication development in pre-school aged children.

What happens at a Chatterbox group session?
Chatterbox groups have an emphasis on parents/carers playing and actively engaging with their child using strategies that are proven to enhance speech and language development. These interactions are supported by the Chatterbox team. At the Chatterbox session, there will be:

- **Play opportunities** for parents/carers and children to promote speech, language & communication development.
- **Advice, tips and strategies** from the Chatterbox team regarding how to support their child’s speech, language and communication skills.
- **A snack time** when the children share a healthy snack and drink. This is a great time to model language by offering children choices and parents/carer’s are actively encouraged to get involved!
- **Time to share a book** between parents/carers and their child: follow the child’s interests, talk about the pictures as well as the words.
- **A structured time** for a whole group story, song time and activities to help to develop the children’s attention and listening skills.

To get the most from Chatterbox groups parents/carers should:

- **Arrive at the start of the session as advertised on the flyer**
- **Give your child your full attention**
- **Not use your mobile phone at all during the session**
- **Make the most of the time available to play and engage with your child!**

Telephone interpreting services are widely available for families whose first language is not English.
Days and Locations

A Speech and Language Therapist is present on the first session of every month. A Speech and Language Therapy Assistant is generally present every week. Please contact the centre directly during school holidays, as timetables are subject to change by the centres during these times.

Please arrive as close to the start of the session as possible, otherwise your child will miss out on the valuable play opportunities and overall structure of the session.

Mondays
Malling Close Children’s Centre, 1:00pm-2:30pm
Lead Therapist– Jo Drake
Tel: 020 8655 5680
Malling Close, Addiscombe, Croydon, CR0 7YD
This centre will be closed on the 6th January 2020

Tuesdays
Aerodrome Children’s Centre 9:30am-11:00am
Lead Therapist– Sarah Hoque
Tel: 020 8688 7710
Violet Lane, Croydon CR0 4HN

Winterbourne Children’s Centre 1:00pm-2.30pm
Lead Therapist– Charlotte Parkhouse
Tel: 020 8689 0978
Winterbourne Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 7QT
This centre re-opens on the 7th January 2020

CHANGE OF VENUE!

Wednesdays
Castle Hill Children’s Centre Hub 9:30am-11:00am
Lead Therapist– Anna Wong
Tel: 01689 841771
Dunley Drive, New Addington, CR0 0RJ

Wednesdays continued...
Shirley Children’s Centre 9.30am-11.00am
Lead Therapist– Saru Sathianandan
Tel: 020 8777 2119
34 Lilac Gardens, Shirley, CR0 8NR
This centre will be closed on the 1st January 2020.

Thursdays
Selhurst Children’s Centre 9:30am-11:00am
Lead Therapist– Sarah Hoque
Tel: 020 8684 3777
23 Dagnall Park, South Norwood, SE25 5PL

Woodlands Children’s Centre 1pm-2:30pm
Lead Therapist– Sarah Hoque
Tel: 020 8916 0543
Farnborough Avenue, Selsdon, CR2 8HD
This centre will be closed on Thursday 2nd January 2020 and Thursday 16th April 2020

Fridays
Purley Oaks Children’s Centre 9:30am-11:00am
Lead Therapist– Ruth Wheeler
Tel: 020 8325 4518
Bynes Road, South Croydon, CR2 0PR
This centre will be closed on Friday 10th April 2020

Kensington Avenue Children’s Centre 1pm-2:30pm
Lead Therapist– Louise Coates
Tel:020 8765 8128,
Kensington Ave, access via Hawthorn Avenue, Thornton Heath, CR7 8BW
This centre will be closed until Friday 10th January 2020