These Fact Files were jointly produced with our colleague Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists with several aims:

- Empowering professionals and families to manage most children’s needs without specialist referral
- Ensuring access for parents and professionals to information to help them to understand children’s communication and physical development
- Increasing awareness of urgent conditions which need immediate referral
- Giving clear information about how to refer and what information to include in a good quality referral

We want to update and relaunch these files now they have been in place for several years. Some practice has changed in this time and there are areas which we did not cover in the original versions which we would now like to add.

Contact name: Camilla Hutchings
Email: Camilla.hutchings@sompar.nhs.uk
Service: Integrated Therapy Service for Children and Young People,

Evidence of impact

- Improved quality of referrals
- More timely referrals
- More parents reporting they have had advice and guidance about their child’s communication difficulties before coming to see an SLT
- Schools and pre-schools feedback that they very much value the resource and request extra copies
- Practitioners report increased confidence in reassuring parents and providing early advice and monitoring rather than immediate referral

Integrated Therapy Service part of Somerset Partnership NHS Trust

Lessons learned and/or future plans

Hard copies of the Fact Files which we have distributed to schools, pre-schools and all relevant professionals