



Outcomes: Setting and measuring progress in Therapy

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES.

"We have always been able to understand Jenny at home, so didn't realize how her speech difficulties might be affecting her at school" (Jenny's Mum)

"Filling out the Outcome web with my Therapist really helped me to understand what we needed to do."

SLT Focus

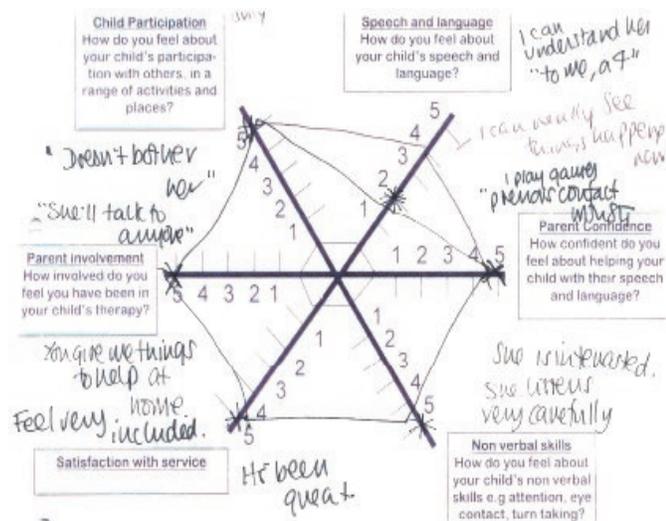
Helping Jenny talk more clearly

Jenny (aged 4 years) came to Therapy because Parents and her teacher were concerned about her speech sounds.

Every week Jenny's mum came to the session with 2-3 words that she really wanted Jenny to say clearly. We worked on those words together. Initially this took some time and lots of home practice. Jenny's Nana and Grandad also did her homework with her.

6 weeks later, she is now able to say her sisters' names, friends names and other important words correctly.

Jenny's Mum says, "I feel very included in the target setting. It's been great".



What Next

Jenny will still need to come to weekly therapy sessions as she has lots of other sounds she needs to work on. Jenny's mum says that she feels confident that Jenny will continue to make progress because she can see how much she enjoys the sessions and that the family are keen to carry out the work they are given each week

Measuring Progress in Therapy



Jenny's pre and post therapy self ratings were:

	Pre-therapy	Post-therapy
Speech and Language	2	3
Parent / child confidence	5	5
Non verbal skills	5	5
Satisfaction with service	5	5
Parent involvement	5	5
Child participation	5	5

Outcome webs are completed at the start of therapy and end with the child/ Young person and their family. The Web considers the following 5 areas on a 5 point scale (1=no concerns to 5=severe):

- 1) Speech and Language difficulty
- 2) Parent confidence
- 3) Non verbal skills
- 4) Satisfaction with service
- 5) Parent involvement
- 6) Child participation

Initially Jenny's Mum rated her speech and language at 4 (mild) because everyone at home could understand her. After Jenny had been assessed and the outcomes fully discussed she realised that Jenny was more delayed than she had realised. She then rated her as a 2 (severe).

Jenny's Mum was really pleased after 6 weeks of therapy to be able to rate Jenny's speech as 3 (moderate) and now feels positive and confident about the future.

SMARTER TARGETS: Experience vs. Reality



Therapist reflection

Using the web helped Jenny's Mum to understand that Jenny had significant difficulties with her speech, but also that there were things we could do about it.

It's good to challenge your own and parent perspectives and remember that therapy should be child centred.

The therapy approach used was not one that I had initially chosen, but it was clear that there were other priorities for the family. I'm really happy that this approach worked out well.

Jenny's Mum has felt that she has been listened to and therapy is an equal partnership between therapist and parents.

