

How the Bobath Centre meets NICE “Cerebral palsy in under 25s: Assessment and Management”

Bobath Centre therapists will provide information and discuss the likelihood that a child may be able to walk in the future, and the likelihood of developing speech, if parents request this.

Eating and drinking

Speech and language therapists at the Bobath Centre who have special training can

- assess children’s eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties
- identify if there are conditions related to a child’s eating and drinking difficulties, such as insufficient weight gain or low bone mineral density
- develop strategies and goals with children, young people and their families to improve eating, drinking and swallowing, control of drooling, constipation and acid reflux.

Communication

- Communication difficulties associated with cerebral palsy are assessed and discussed with children, young people and their parents or carers.
- Therapy is provided to improve voice production, the clarity of speech, posture and breath control.
- Where appropriate, communication strategies are used such as signing, symbols, voice output devices and advice given about accessing and using different switches

Pain, discomfort, behaviour and sleep

- Therapists pay attention to any issues regarding pain, discomfort, distress, behaviour or sleep problems which are expressed by children, parents or carers.
- Due to their extensive experience, therapists can determine many of the typical causes of these problems, and seek to support parents, carers and children talking about possible causes and suggesting ideas and strategies to address these issues.

Sensory issues

Therapists at the Bobath Centre are skilled in assessing the abilities of the children and young people to register and process sensory information, and can explain these issues to families and children and use therapy activities to improve a child’s abilities in these areas.

Vision

Therapists have specialist knowledge of the visual difficulties typically seen in children with cerebral palsy and can help children, parents and carers to maximise how vision is used functionally giving ideas to use in the home and other environments to maximise their abilities.

What if my child might need more specialist help?

Therapists at the Bobath Centre will always suggest referral to more specialist services for assessment, investigations and interventions when they consider this is appropriate and in the best interests of the child, young person and family.