

What happens in a Cheeky Monkeys Speech Pathology therapy session?

- All sessions start with a warm welcome.
- Parents/Carers are encouraged to assist their child to wash their hands in the clinic bathroom prior to the session starting to control infection and keep toys clean. Consistent with infection control policies in other settings, if children place their hands in their noses, mouths or down their pants during the session they will be encouraged to use an alcohol hand rub or wash their hands again.
- Time is allocated to speak with Parents/Carers initially regarding homework tasks, the child's communication skills, any relevant changes in child's schedule/health/behaviour, and any questions or concerns they may have.
- Usually 2-4 therapy goals are worked on in a session. Therapy goals focus on areas of difficulty identified in testing. Goals are discussed with parents and parent input is welcomed. Here are some example goals: use two word phrases, make 's' sounds accurately at the start of words, use longer sentences, understand place terms (eg. in, on).
- Therapy approaches used follow best practice guidelines and depend upon the child's difficulties, their age and therapy readiness. The goal of therapy is to remediate areas of difficulty, working at a level that is challenging but achievable to encourage change and build confidence. During therapy there is often a probe of the child's ability when they complete a task independently, then support is given to facilitate success, and an opportunity is provided for the child to consolidate the new skill. Fun props are often used during therapy (eg. toys, pictures, books).
- Between tasks, Rachel will play short games with your child. This helps Rachel to build a friendship with the child, gives them a break, and encourages motivation to comply with tasks.
- Therapy activities and support strategies are modelled and discussed during the session. The involvement and training of parents in therapy is considered to be best practice as Parents/Carers have an established close relationship with their child and have the opportunity to complete homework tasks in a range of different settings through the week.
- Homework is discussed and Parents/Carers are given written homework ideas.
- Parents/Carers then pay for the session using cash, card or direct deposit. They are given their invoice.
- Further appointments can be booked if requested.
- The session takes approximately 45 minutes.
- The family then leave the clinic room.