



Parley

Parents And Relatives
Listening and Empathising
with You

Robert's Story

Robert my 3 year old has a severe speech delay of about 9-15 months. He is only just joining 5 words together & his speech sounds are appalling. I'm the only one who can near enough understand him all the time... even my husband struggles to understand him.

I was getting really worried about it, compared to all the other children his age Robert was way behind in his speech. Although everyone says not to compare children I think a little bit of comparison is a good thing. My youngest James was born in January 08 & so when the Health Visitor came over I asked for a referral for a hearing test. I also took Robert to the Speech & Language Therapy Drop in clinic that I had heard about from a friend.

We had to wait until March for Robert's hearing test, but in the mean time I took him to the Drs to just get his ears checked. The Dr said he had Glue Ear. He printed off some fact sheets for us, which had loads of tips on how to communicate with Robert so we knew he could hear us. I did some research on the Internet & found out the treatment would be grommets depending on what his hearing test results were.

The Speech Therapy started straight away after the February half term but the hearing test seemed like ages away. Eventually March came round and Roberts hearing test results weren't great. A combination of bad test results & his speech delay meant that the audiologist said it was probably best to get him referred straight away to the Ears Nose & Throat Dr.

The appointment for the Ears Nose & Throat Dr came through for June where he had another hearing test to see if there were any improvements, there were but not significant, and he was booked in for Grommets & an Adenoidectomy at the end of July. We were given leaflets about both Operations and told to call if we had any questions. Again I went away and had a look on the Internet for more information but didn't find much more than was in the leaflets.

After the Operation Robert could clearly hear much better, and having his Adenoids out meant that he was less snuffly & throaty than we had ever heard him. Its now November and Robert is starting one on one Speech Therapy this week, its what he needs because although at the beginning of the year he was only joining 2-3 words together & now he can join 5-6 there has been no improvements to his speech sounds & pronunciation. I personally think there is a deeper lying problem for which he is being assessed in January but at least now I know there is no excuse Robert can hear properly now and therefore I hope there will be some improvements in his speech soon.

Robert is being tested for Autism in January 2009 and will do a letter for that too!