

Educator - tips to help a child with stuttering!

Strengthen your skills

- Increase your knowledge and skills on stuttering by attending the free training *Änkyttävä lapsi varhaiskasvatuksessa* (in Finnish) (www.temposhop.fi)

Talk about your concern

- Discuss the stuttering with the child's parents and tell them about your observations. Give parents information about stuttering and reassure the worried parent without downplaying the issue. Give the parent written material on stuttering (www.tempokeskus.fi) and direct the parent to the free "Kohti Voimaa" material (in Finnish) (www.temposhop.fi).

Referral to treatment

- Think about what kind of support the child and family needs for stuttering together with the parent. Refer the family to speech therapy if necessary. Use the guidelines for early childhood education and care to assess when to refer the child to speech therapy.

Everyday actions

- Think about how to support the child's fluency in daily life in early childhood education and care. Pay attention to adult interaction (e.g. calm speech pattern, taking turns, linguistic complexity). Favour small group activities. Strengthen the child's courage to speak and self-esteem. Show acceptance of stuttering. You play an important role in supporting the child's development!

For early childhood education and care:



For families:



For health nurses:



Stuttering in a child – guidelines for early childhood education and care

The implementation of early support in the daily life of early childhood education and care starts immediately, regardless of how long the stuttering has been going on.

- calm speech pattern
- emphasis on taking turns
- reducing linguistic complexity
- small group activities
- accepting attitude to stuttering
- strengthening the child's self-esteem and courage to speak

Has the child's stuttering continued for more than 6 months?



Yes.

Give the family initial information about stuttering.

Refer the family to the free "Kohti Voimaa" material (in Finnish) or the "Voima" programme (in Finnish).



Refer the family to a speech therapist.

No.

Talk to the parents and give them initial information about stuttering.

Ask the family to familiarise themselves with the "Kohti Voimaa" material (in Finnish).



**Is the parent very concerned about stuttering?
OR
Does the child react negatively/strongly to stuttering?**



Yes.



No.

Monitor changes in speech fluency and reassess after 3 months.