

Changing Lives Forever

Action for Stammering Children (ASC)

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EDITORS NOTES:

Action for Stammering Children (ASC), funds the delivery of specialist services that transform the lives of children and young people who stammer.

ASC is the Charity behind the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children. Based in Islington, this national Centre runs the UK's largest specialist service exclusively dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of children who stammer. More recently, ASC is also supporting the work of the newly established Stammering Support Centre in Leeds.

Stammering is a severe communication disability which impairs social, emotional and educational development. Estimates for children suggest that 1 in 20 children stammer and that it is 3 to 4 times more common in boys than in girls. While stammering is outwardly characterised by repetitions, prolongations and blocking of sounds, these core behaviours can be accompanied by feelings of isolation, frustration, embarrassment, diminished selfworth and poor self-image.

Stammering crosses all races, cultures, religions and social groupings, conceals intellectual ability, affects educational choices and attainment, results in impaired communication skills and frequently becomes a focus for teasing and bullying. A stammer can often play a significant part in a young person's ability to achieve their potential and to make their full contribution to society as an adult.

As well as providing specialist assessments and support, the charity also funds training of Speech and Language Therapists and appropriate Research. The training increases the understanding, skills and confidence of generalist Speech and Language Therapists to be able to work with a child who stammers and the Research programme provides evidence of the efficacy of the work done whilst at the same time helps to continue to develop the best possible therapies.

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