

### **What can you expect during your first appointment?**

- The speech pathologist discusses and documents a case history of the child and addresses concerns or queries related to this child's communication
- A comprehensive initial assessment of your child's communication skills. The speech pathologist will use a standardised assessment, informal assessment or a combination of assessments to determine the type and severity of the communication difficulty and if further assessments are required
- For your personal information to be respected and kept confidential at all times

### **What to bring**

- The consent form completed and signed
- If your child has a Chronic Disease Management plan (CDM) from a GP, please bring a copy of the plan to the first appointment
- If your child accesses funding from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), please bring a copy of their NDIS Plan to the first appointment
- If you have private health insurance with extras that includes speech pathology, please bring your private health card to swipe in the HICAPS machine to access the rebate from your private health insurance.
- If your child has copies of reports from other health professionals or educators, please bring copies of the reports to the appointment to assist the speech pathologist with providing an informed treatment.

### **Parents/Caregivers are expected to:**

- To be actively involved in sessions and in the planning of therapy goals
- To manage and be responsible for your child's behaviour and safety when attending the clinic
- To advise the Paediatrics Ballarat clinic of any changes in contact details (e.g. phone number and address)
- Advise us as early as possible if you are not able to attend your scheduled appointment
- When possible, arrange childcare for your child's siblings. This will enable you and your child to focus on the session.
- If your child is sick, please do not bring them to the appointment. Your child is not likely to get the most out of the assessment or therapy session if they are feeling unwell.
- To complete regular home practice tasks set by the speech pathologist

### **Follow up appointment (If required)**

- Feedback regarding the results of assessment and a written report summary
- To be informed of planned therapy goals
- To acquire skills and knowledge to work with your child at home
- For the speech pathologist to liaise with other health care professionals/teachers where necessary and as agreed upon.

Please notify us well in advance if you are unable to attend the first appointment. Failure to attend your appointment or **failure to cancel an appointment with less than 24 hours-notice will incur a \$45 non-attendance fee**, which must be paid prior to the next appointment.