

# TUNE IN TO YOUR CHILD'S VOICE



the british  
**voice**  
association

**ARE YOU  
WORRIED ABOUT  
YOUR CHILD'S VOICE?**

**...GET IT CHECKED**

Although most changes in voice quality occur because of poor voice production or simple throat infections, occasionally hoarseness may be the first sign of a more serious problem. It is always better to be safe than sorry.

**TURN OVER TO FIND OUT MORE...**

## **ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S VOICE?**

Have you noticed that it sounds different? It might sound a bit rougher or breathier than usual. Perhaps it is difficult to get it started, or maybe it breaks, squeaks unexpectedly or hurts when he/she speaks or sings? If this has been going on for longer than two weeks or so you may be beginning to wonder if anything is wrong.

## **GET IT CHECKED!**

Although most changes in voice quality occur because of inefficient voice production or simple throat infections, very occasionally hoarseness may be a sign of a more serious problem. It is always better to be safe than sorry.

## **WHAT TO DO**

Report your child's symptoms to your General Practitioner (GP). If you do not have a GP it is important to register with one as soon as possible – without one it is going to be very difficult to get the help your child needs.

## **THE GP**

...can diagnose and treat some voice problems. They can refer your child on to a specialist for further investigations and treatment if they feel this is necessary.

## **THE EAR NOSE & THROAT SURGEON (ENT Surgeon)**

...can examine your child's voice to ensure that it is healthy. They can diagnose most voice problems and provide medication, special investigations and refer to other specialists for further diagnosis or treatment where necessary.

## **THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY VOICE CLINIC (MDVC)**

This is a specialist clinic where your child may be assessed by a number of professionals with a special interest in voice disorders. The core Voice Clinic team members are the ENT surgeon and the Speech Therapist. Other specialists, such as osteopaths, physiotherapists, singing advisors or psychologists may be included in the team.

The MDVC team does all that the ENT surgeon can. In addition, they can diagnose hidden abnormalities of the vocal folds using specialist equipment. They also provide a wide range of specialist treatments for voice disorders. They are particularly helpful in cases where a child has failed to respond to standard medical treatment.

## **CHILDREN'S VOICES ARE PRECIOUS — WE NEED TO LOOK AFTER THEM!**

For further information about voice care and Multidisciplinary Voice Clinics visit the British Voice Association website at:

**[www.britishvoiceassociation.org.uk](http://www.britishvoiceassociation.org.uk)**