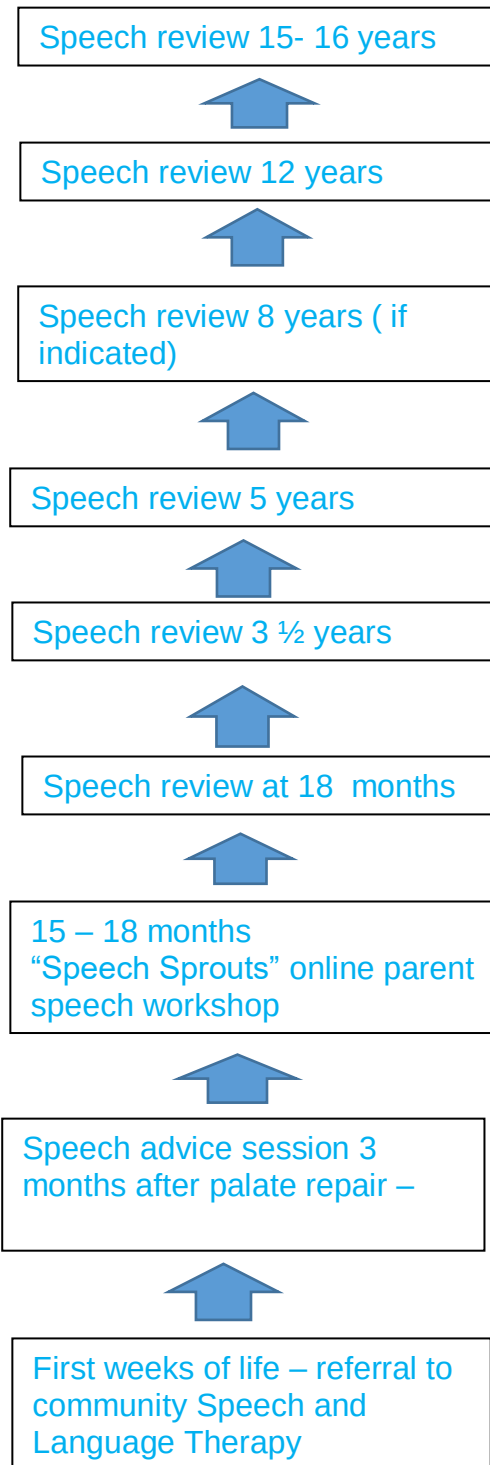
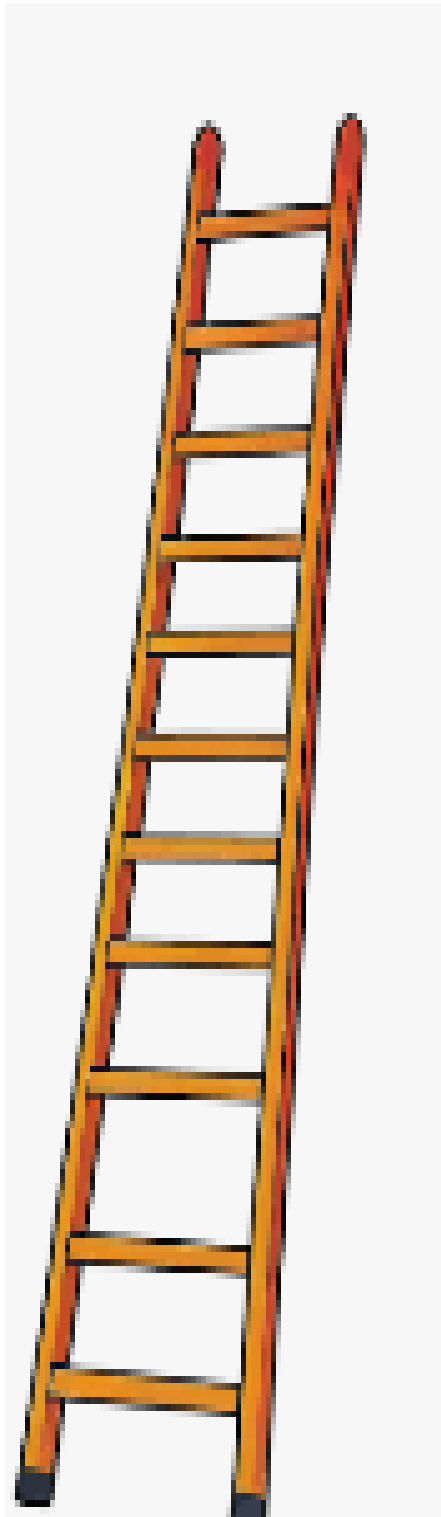


Speech Cleft Care Pathway

Your child's speech will be closely monitored by your cleft team at key points in their development from infancy to their teen years as shown below.



- **First Weeks Of Life:** Following your initial consult with the Cleft Surgeon, a referral for your child is automatically made by the Speech and Language Therapist on the cleft team to community speech and language therapy services. This is done for every child with cleft as children with cleft are more likely to require speech and language intervention.
- **After Your Baby's Cleft Repair:** Your baby needs to learn to use their palate to make sounds that they couldn't make before their palate was repaired. Your Speech and Language Therapist will meet with you at your 3 month post operative clinic visit (usually at 12 months of age) for a session to show you ways of helping your child to develop these speech sounds.
- **15-18 months. Online Parent Workshop:** We offer an online speech therapy intervention "Speech Sprouts" between 15 – 18 months. It is an important speech therapy intervention that teaches you ways to develop your child's speech, as well as as providing an opportunity to meet with other parents.
- **18 – 24 months Speech Review:** Your child will have a full speech assessment between 18 - 24 months as part of the speech cleft care pathway.
- **Additional Reviews Before 3 Years:** If your child is noted to have speech difficulties at their 18-month check-up, they will have additional speech reviews as required.
- **Reviews At 3½, 5, 12, and 15 - 16 Years:** Your child will have a full speech assessment with the cleft team at 3 ½ years, 5 years, 12 years and 15 – 16 years as part of the cleft care pathway.
- **Reviews As Required:** Children who are assessed as having speech difficulties at any stage will have ongoing reviews with the cleft team who will liaise with community services.

Created by: Celine Lenihan, Senior Speech and Language Therapist, Speech and Language Therapy Department, Children's Health Ireland 24.07.2026