

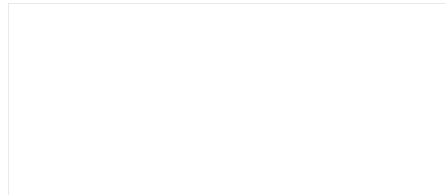
**Question No :** 288

**Question :** Speech Therapy Programs

**Question Date :** 29/06/93

**Member :** Mrs HICKEY

**To :** MINISTER for EDUCATION and TRAINING



1. What speech therapy is provided at schools to children with speech impediments or difficulties.
2. How are children assessed for eligibility.
3. Are any charges collected for these services.

**ANSWER**

1. Speech therapy is provided for schoolchildren who need assistance with the following -
  - (a) articulation;
  - (b) oral language;
  - (c) hearing and/or auditory processing;
  - (d) voice;
  - (e) fluency, eg stuttering;
  - (f) eating difficulties, saliva control; and
  - (g) augmentative and alternative communication (signing/symbol systems)
2. School staff identify students requiring assistance from speech therapists and refer them to the Student Services section of the Department of Education.  
  
Students may also be referred directly by parents, doctors or the Department of Health and Community Services.
3. There are no charges for families receiving speech therapy services from therapists employed in the Department of Education.