

Appendix 2

Young Children who Stammer: The Case for Early Intervention – a summary

- **Stammering in young children is a common problem. By 3 years of age, the cumulative incidence of stammering onset is between 7% and 8.5%**

Dworzynski et al. (2007), Reilly et al. (2009)

- **About 25% of these children are at risk of persisting with the disorder into adulthood**

Howell et al. (2008), Stewart and Turnbull (2007), Yairi and Ambrose (1999)

- **Children who have been stammering for more than three years are likely to persist with stammering throughout their lives**

Yairi, Ambrose, Paden and Throneberg (1996)

- **Early Intervention is effective**

Christine (1996), Fosnot (1993), Franken et al. (2005), Harris et al (2005), Hunter (2007), Jones et al, (2005, 2008), Meyers and Woodford (1992)

- **Early Intervention is time and cost-effective**

Hunter (2007), Manning (2001)

- **The longer the stuttering symptoms persist in early childhood, the more difficult it is to change the brain's wiring, and stuttering becomes a chronic, usually lifelong problem.**

Smith (2008)

- **Left untreated, stammering can seriously disrupt the child's ability to communicate throughout their entire lifespan**

Packmann and Kuhn (2009)

- **Pre-school dysfluent children are at risk of experiencing or developing psychological, emotional, social, educational and vocational difficulties**

Bajaj et al (2005), Crichton-Smith (2002), Gabel (2006), Hayhow et al (2002), Jaksic et al (2000), Langevin et al (2007a), Lattermann et al (2007), Murphy et al (2007), Vanryckeghem and Brutton (1997), Vanryckeghem et al (2005)

- **Children who stammer are significantly more susceptible to being bullied or teased by their peers than children who do not stammer**

Davis, Howell and Cook (2002), Langevin and Hagler (2004), Langevin (2000), Langevin et al (1998)

- **Government policy supports early intervention**

Bercow Report (2008), Better Communication (2008), Child Health Promotion Programme (2009), Early Years Foundation Stage (2009), NHS Constitution (2009)