

# Nicole Prendeville

**Team Leader and Clinical Expert Speech and Language Therapist – Surgical Speech and Hearing Services, specialising in Cleft Lip and Palate/Velopharyngeal Dysfunction**



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Nicole Prendeville is a Speech and Language therapist with 18 years of experience working in paediatrics in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. As part of her role within the Cleft Lip and Palate service at Great Ormond Street Hospital, she has worked with children and young people across the lifespan in the designated 22q11 clinic, in her own Speech and Language clinic and within the Velopharyngeal Investigations service. Nicole has worked with babies who have been diagnosed with 22q11D.S. to support their feeding and swallowing difficulties; with most of her work evaluating the communication skills of children during the preschool, school-age and teenage years. Her main area of expertise with children/YP with 22q11D.S. is to examine if there is any component of velopharyngeal dysfunction and to address this through detailed investigation within the Velopharyngeal Investigations clinic using perceptual speech assessment, lateral speech X-ray and nasendoscopy, when needed. With younger children, her role is to identify the communication needs, if any, that may present; counsel parents/carers about the profile of communication their child is presenting with and the trajectory this may take; and referring these children to community SLT services to ensure that delayed language skills or social communication needs are appropriately met in as timely a manner as possible. Nicole has provided articulation and phonological therapy to school-aged and teenage children with disordered speech, using EPG and speech prosthetics where indicated.

Nicole has coordinated and taught the Cleft Palate modules on SLT undergraduate and Masters programmes at City University London and UCL as well as teaching/training community SLTs which has included case studies of children with 22q11D.S. with speech velopharyngeal dysfunction and speech disorders to increase awareness of this condition in student SLTs.