

The Whistle Stop



Is Your Child Ready For School?

Don't Wait and See!

Long before children start to talk, they are learning about communication. The sooner we see a child with delayed speech and language, the more we can help! Early detection of difficulties is crucial for later success in school and in life.

Call Language Express today!

1-888-503-8885



Important Information

Children born in 2010 must be referred **before** January 30th 2015 to receive an assessment and recommendations.

After January 30th 2015 referrals will **only** be accepted for children born in 2011 or later.

READ TO YOUR CHILD EVERY DAY!

You can start reading with your child at birth. Holding your baby, toddler or pre-schooler on your lap or snuggled close can make her feel cosy and secure while you read together.

While you are reading to your baby or toddler, use facial expressions, funny sounds and voices. Babies and toddlers respond well to rhythm and rhyme in books. They love to see pictures of real people, especially other babies. Touch and feel books are a good choice for this age group.

As your baby or toddler develops, let her hold the book, touch it and turn the pages. Point to the pictures and talk about them, or ask questions like, "What is happening?" or "What do you think is going to happen next?" Try waiting to see what your child will look at or point to, and talk about that. Don't hesitate to read a loved book over and over again. Toddlers love the repetition and will happily fill in words when you pause!

Preschoolers love "pop-ups" or flap books, books on numbers and colours, and books with nonsense sounds. Point to the words while you read to your pre-schooler, so he learns that the letters mean something. Let him hold the book and turn the pages.

It is fun to use different voices for different characters in the story. Have fun with your child adding sounds to what is happening in the story. Talk about the pictures and ask questions while you are reading to him (e.g. "Why do you think the elephant was scared?" "Do you remember the time we went to the museum and you were scared of the skeletons?").

It is never too early to start reading with your child. Reading together allows you to spend special time with your child every day. It helps to develop your child's communication skills and creates a path to greater literacy success later in life.





If you are concerned about your child's speech/language/hearing development or would like more information please contact Language Express:

1-888-503-8885

For more information about milestones, activities to try at home and literacy tips please visit our website at:

www.language-express.ca

Excerpt from:

LEARNING TO TALK Birth to 2 1/2 Years

It's Never Too Early to Read



Research shows that children get ready to read before they start school. From 0-3 years, children develop knowledge of the spoken language, the sounds that form words, letters, writing and books.

What you can do at home:

- Make book sharing a part of your everyday routines starting at birth. You don't have to read the words. Talk about the pictures to see what interests your child.
- Make book sharing time special between you and your child.
- Read labels, signs, lists and menus out loud!
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Point out and name letters when reading books together.

Great Book Types for Babies, Toddlers & Preschoolers



ABC and counting books:

Fun and colourful illustrations of the alphabet and numbers

Example: *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*

by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault, illustrated by Lois Ehlert



Wordless picture books:

A story told through pictures and few or no words.

Example: *Good Dog, Carl* by Alexandra Day



Concept books:

Pictures or photos of familiar objects or ideas such as colors, shapes, opposites, or sizes.

Example: *Color Dance* by Ann Jonas



Pattern books:

Repeating text and predictable plots that let children join in

Example: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*

by Bill Martin Jr., illustrated by Eric Carle



Information books:

Realistic pictures or photographs that introduce facts about a specific topic

Example: *Bugs* by Nancy Winslow Parker & Joan Richards Wright

(Source: Read with Me, a RIF Parent-Teacher Partnership)

Try These Books:

Press Here
by Herve Tullet

The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and the Hungry Bear
by Don Wood

Tap the Magic Tree by Christie Matheson

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
by Bill Martin Jr.



How is Language Express doing?

Average Referral Age April 1 - March 31:

2012-13	2013-14
35 months	34 months

Don't wait & see! Refer your child to Language Express **now!**