

# The Whistle Stop



## What to expect at your child's speech and language assessment

The first time you and your child meet with a Language Express Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) she will be trying to learn as much as she can about how your child communicates. The visit will last 1 – 1 ½ hours. Depending on your child's age and what the concerns are, the SLP may:

- ask you to complete one or more questionnaires before the visit;
- ask you questions about your concerns and about your child's development;
- play with toys and look at books with your child (She may also want to observe how your child plays with you.);
- look in your child's mouth, ask him or her to move her tongue, lips, and jaw in different ways, and try saying some sounds.

With older preschoolers the SLP may try some testing. She may ask your child to look at pictures and answer questions with words or by pointing, or to follow instructions with toys. Don't worry if your child doesn't have the attention span for this kind of testing. Many children don't, and SLPs are experts at observing children's skills in play.

The SLP's goal is to learn enough about your child's language, speech, social communication, and play skills to decide if help is needed, and if so, what to work on first. She doesn't expect to know everything about your child after one visit! At the end of the visit the SLP will discuss her observations with you and possibly suggest some things to try at home right away. She will explain the types of service Language Express offers and work with you to make a plan for your child's speech and language therapy. After the visit you will receive a written report which the SLP will review with you.

## About Language Express

Language Express provides communication assessment and therapy services for young children in Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville counties. Services are free and are available from birth until the end of Junior Kindergarten.

### When To Get Help:

- If your child is not meeting all of the communication milestones for his or her age. Check the milestones at [www.language-express.ca](http://www.language-express.ca).
- If your child is stuttering.
- If your child's play or social interaction seems different from other children his or her age.
- If your child's voice doesn't sound right.
- If your child has a diagnosis such as hearing loss, Autism Spectrum Disorder, or developmental delay.

Language Express is currently accepting referrals for children born in 2013 or later. **Children born in 2013 must be referred by January 31, 2018.**

Call us for more information  
or to make a referral

**1-888-503-8885**



## Get your child's hearing tested!

It's always a good idea to have your child's hearing tested before a speech and

language assessment, just in case hearing issues are part of the problem. Scan this code or go to our website and click on the Referrals tab for a list of audiology clinics that offer testing for preschoolers.



## Did you know?

Every year Language Express receives about 400 referrals and provides service to more than 800 families.

We offer many different types of small-group therapy in addition to individual therapy, parent education programs, home programs, and consultation to daycares and schools.

Parents are expected to participate with their children in all therapy.



## Waiting for an assessment?

There are lots of things you can do to help your child while you wait.

Age and stage	Try	Example	Your child might
Babies and toddlers who aren't using words yet	Get face-to-face and imitate your child's sounds, actions, and the faces she makes.	Peek-a-boo: Your child makes a surprised face → you copy her expression and say "boo!"	Imitate you!
Toddlers who are starting to use some single words.	Look at a book together. Wait for your child to point to something, and then say a word for what he points to.	Your child points to a picture of a farmer driving a tractor → You say "tractor" and wait.	Try saying the word after you, or point to more things to get you to say more words.
Older toddlers and preschoolers who are using simple sentences.	Repeat what she says correctly, so she hears a good model, and add something, so she learns new words.	Your child says "Boon fall down!" → You say "Your spoon fell down and made a clatter!" Don't tell her to say it again.	She might try saying it again more correctly, or she might not. Even if she doesn't, she has heard a good model and that will help her learn about grammar.
Older preschoolers and JK students who are hard to understand.	Repeat what she said correctly, emphasizing the sounds that you have corrected. Don't make your child say it again.	Your child says, "Tan I have a tootie?" → You say, "Yes, you <u>can</u> have a <u>cookie</u> ."	She might try saying it again and she might not. If not, your good model will bring the sounds to her attention for next time.