

Welcome to the York Region Preschool Speech and Language Program!

Thank you for referring your child for a speech and language assessment. We are looking forward to working with you and your child. Now, let's get started!

What Will Happen Next?

- Your child's name has been placed on our waitlist for a speech and language assessment. You will be contacted by phone to schedule an appointment. The wait time for an assessment can vary depending on the number of children referred to our program. For an updated estimate of the current wait times, please visit our website at www.childdevelopmentprograms.ca.
- You will be assigned to one of our office locations by our intake team. This is considered your "home office".
- Your initial assessment appointment may be booked at your home office, or at one of our other sites located within York Region. At the time of booking the speech and language assessment, the office clerk will confirm the location of the initial assessment with you.

What Can I Do Now?

- There are many ways in which you can support your child's communication development while you are waiting for the assessment. In fact, you are likely doing many helpful things during your interactions and play with your child to support communication without being aware that you are doing this! For additional ideas and resources, including e-learning modules, tips sheets, community resources, and a calendar of events, please visit our website at www.childdevelopmentprograms.ca, and click on the **WHILE YOU WAIT** tab.

What Does a Speech-Language Pathologist Do?

- The assessment will be completed by a Speech-Language Pathologist (S-LP). S-LPs are registered with the College of Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario (CALSPPO).
- Speech-Language Pathologists specialize in the area of communication development. They provide assessment and intervention for children experiencing delays or difficulties in the following areas:
 - social communication (e.g., interactions with others; initiating, responding to, and sustaining conversation; non-verbal communication, such as use of gestures, eye gaze, pointing, facial expressions)
 - play skills (interest in, and appropriate use of toys; pretend play)
 - understanding of language
 - expressive language (use of signs, words, phrases, sentences)
 - speech production (speech sounds, clarity of speech)
 - fluency
 - voice

Occasionally, families are keen to initiate speech and language therapy while they are waiting for our service. Many extended health plans cover some of the costs of private therapy. The Ontario Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists (OSLA at 416-920-3676 or www.osla.on.ca) keeps a registry and can provide you with the names and telephone numbers of private practitioners in your area.

**We look forward to working with you and your child.
While you are waiting for an assessment,
please remember to visit our website at
www.childdevelopmentprograms.ca
for additional resources. Thank you!**