



Can You Hear It?

Can You Say It?

*Communication
Nation*

LIVE IT!

MAY IS SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH!

Get the Facts on...

Speech and Language Development for School Aged Children



Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
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Speech and Language Development for School Aged Children

Give Your Child a Strong Foundation

Parents are a child's best role model for speech and language development.

All children need a home environment where they are encouraged to communicate. By the time a child is four and a half they will have a vocabulary of approximately 2000 words, they will be able to listen well, and 90 to 100 percent of their speech will be understood. Most children will have mastered all English speech sounds by the age of seven or eight. By school age, a child should be able to speak in complete sentences with minor grammatical errors. If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development, talk to a speech-language pathologist.

Early detection is vital.

Warning signs for problems in speech or language development

- Speaks using incomplete sentences
- Seems unable to follow oral directions
- Avoids, stumbles, or gets stuck on certain words and sounds
- Has difficulty playing or communicating with friends
- Has problems swallowing or chewing
- Has frequent or long-term hoarseness
- Is unable to control the volume of his/her speech appropriately
- Has a history of chronic ear infections



Create an environment which encourages communication

- Be a model for correct pronunciation but don't make your child repeat after you when he/she has said something wrong.
- Read with your child.
- Talk about things as they happen.
- Listen carefully and give your child enough time to speak.
- Don't interrupt.
- Use a slow, natural rate of speech yourself when speaking to your child.
- Give your child the opportunity to make verbal choices, such as "do you want an apple or an orange?"
- Play guessing games like "I spy" and other word games.
- Imaginative play using dolls or action figures can help your child model social interactions. Include greetings, comments, questions or small talk.
- Use open-ended questions like "What should we buy at the store?"

