

# Language Express Media Release

For immediate release: January 7, 2009



## Is your child ready for Kindergarten?

Children need to be able to speak clearly and ask questions, listen and follow directions, and play appropriately with other children. 10-12% of preschool children have speech and language difficulties that will make it hard for them to succeed in school and in life

Think about your preschooler's speech and language skills, and ask yourself if he/she will be ready for Senior Kindergarten.

### Can your 4 year old:

- Follow instructions with three or more steps e.g. "First get your crayons and paper, then draw a picture and then give it to Grandma"?
- Use adult-type grammar?
- Tell stories with a clear beginning, middle and end?
- Talk to try to solve problems with adults and other children?
- Be understood by strangers almost all of the time?
- Make up simple rhymes e.g. Cat-Bat?
- Match some letters with their sounds e.g. letter T says 'tuh'?
- Start a conversation and keep it going on the same topic for at least three turns?

Junior Kindergarten-aged children born in 2004 must be referred before **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009** to receive an assessment and recommendations. **After January 31<sup>st</sup> referrals will only be accepted for children born in 2005 or later.**

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language skills or are interested in how your child is doing, call the Language Express Preschool Speech System at **1-888-503-8885 / 613-283-2742.**

A speech-language assessment can identify your child's strengths and needs, and can help you prepare your child for school. For more information check our website: [www.language-express.ca](http://www.language-express.ca).

-30-

### Contact:

Catherine Robinson, Clinical Coordinator, Language Express PSL

613-283-2740 ext 4260