

Language Express Media Release

For immediate release: October 4, 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 child's speech and language skills, and ask yourself if he/she will be ready for Junior or 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 2006 must be referred before **January 28th 2011** to receive an assessment and recommendations. **After January 28th referrals will only be accepted for children born in 2007 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 out our website: www.language-express.ca.

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