



“SPEAK WELL, HEAR WELL, LIVE WELL” May is Speech and Hearing Month

One of the greatest gifts a parent can give a child is the ability to communicate effectively with others. Parents play a key role in the development of speech and language in preschool children. Parents can:

- Expose children to new words by allowing them to hear them frequently in their natural environment and by having words repeated often.
- Use books as an opportunity to provide new experiences and new language for children.
- Share songs to provide opportunities to help young children develop good speech and language skills.
- Have child’s ears checked by a doctor if the child is pulling at his/her ears frequently.

Children develop speech and language at certain ages and stages. If a child is not using words at the appropriate stage of development, it may indicate a language delay. Although each child develops at his or her own pace, they should be reaching milestones that are typical for most children. Good speech and language development provides the necessary tools for later reading and writing, and for success in school and in life. (Taken from article by Judy Ball, Speech-Language Pathologist and Health Promoter, tykeTALK)

	Birth - 12 months	12 months - 2 years
Hearing Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Startles, cries or wakens to loud noises (0-3 months) • Looks around to determine where new sounds are coming from (4-6 months) • Turns or looks when his name is called (6-9 months) • Responds to requests such as “Want more?” “Come here.” (9-12 months) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turns toward you when you call their name from behind • Follows simple commands • Listens to simple stories, rhymes and songs • Imitates sounds and words
Speech & Language Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes a lot of “cooing” and “gooing” sounds (by 3 months) • Responds to parent – e.g. Watches your face as you talk. (by 3 months) • Smiles or laughs (by 6 months) • Imitates sounds – ah, eh, buh or coughs (by 6 months) • Uses three to five single words (by 12 months) • Waves hi/bye and begins to use other gestures (by 12 months) • Makes sounds to get attention, to make needs known or to protest (by 12 months) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands “no” and simple requests – e.g. “Give it to mommy.” “Don’t touch.” “Where’s the ball?” (by 12 months) • Uses at least 20-50 words – don’t have to be clear (by 18 months) • Makes at least four consonant sounds from ‘p,b,m,n,d,t,w,h’ (by 18 months) • Tries to copy your words (by 2 years) • Takes turns in conversation (by 2 years) • Uses 100-150 words and combines 2 words – e.g. “More juice.” “Want cookie.” (by 2 years)

If you are concerned about your child’s speech and language development and/ or hearing skills, 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 success in communicating, reading and writing.

For more information, check out our website: www.language-express.ca.