



## “Are You Listening To Me?”

### Language Express Encourages Parents to Watch for Signs of Hearing Impairment

Children learn speech and language from listening to others. If a child doesn't hear well, learning to speak and communicate will be harder. A family doctor or speech-language pathologist should be contacted if a child is not reaching some of the milestones at or below their age.

#### Hearing Milestones:

##### • **Up to 6 months**

- Startles, cries, awakens to loud sounds
- Responds to music, noise, voices

##### • **7-12 months**

- Turns or looks whenever name called
- Responds to requests (“Want more?”, “Come here”)
- Looks at or points to everyday objects on request (e.g. “bottle”)

##### • **1-2 years**

- Tries to “talk” by repeating some sounds
- Points to body part when asked without seeing speaker

##### • **2-3 years**

- Listens to simple stories
- Follows two-step requests (“Get the ball and put it here”)
- Follows simple commands without seeing speaker

##### • **3-4 years**

- Hears someone in another room
- Hears and repeats whispers
- Uses 4+ words in a sentence, answers simple questions

##### • **4-5 years**

- Talks easily to children and adults
- Pays attention to simple stories
- Can tell a story about himself

#### Warning Signs:

- Stops babbling
- Experiences fluid draining from ears
- Frequently pulls ears (with fever or crankiness)
- Frequently gets colds, ear infections
- Does not understand someone who is facing them
- Speaks loudly or turns up the volume of television or radio
- Does not say single words by 12 months
- Does not respond when called
- Needs things repeated

Source: The Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, [www.caslpa.ca](http://www.caslpa.ca)

**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](http://www.language-express.ca).**