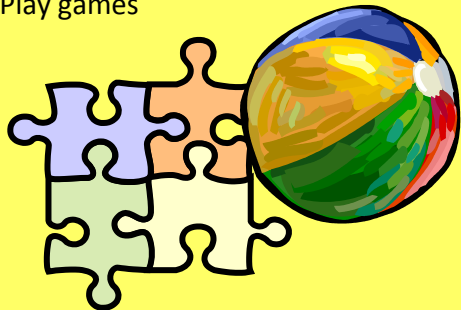


Ways to Promote Your Child's Speech and Language Development:

- Be a good speech model. Don't use baby talk.
- Look at your child when he/she is speaking.
- Pronounce words clearly, slowly and correctly for your child to hear.
- Let your child watch your face, lips and tongue as you say sounds that are difficult for your child to say.
- Praise your child's efforts to speak more clearly.
- Repeat new words over and over.
- Talk about things you do and places you go.
- Read to your child daily.
- Tell stories together.
- Recite nursery rhymes and sing songs.
- Pretend with your child.
- Play games



How can a parent get help for a student who may have a speech or language problem?

- Contact your school principal and ask how to initiate a referral to the Speech Language Pathologist.
- Contact the school Speech Language Pathologist directly. Your school Speech Language Pathologist is:

905 - 525 - 2930 ext. _____

- General inquiries can be directed to :
Julie Byrne, Manager
Speech & Language Services
905-525-2930 ext. 2889



Hamilton Wentworth
Catholic District School Board



Family of Schools Speech and Language Services



"If all my possessions were taken from me, with one exception, I would choose to keep the power of communication, for by it I would soon regain all the rest." ~ Daniel Webster

Children with a history of speech or language problems are at a high risk for developing reading, writing and spelling difficulties.

Each Family of Schools is assigned a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP). SLPs are regulated health professionals who are registered with the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario. A Family of Schools consists of a high school and all elementary schools feeding into it (typically 10 –12 elementary schools).



Speech Language Pathology services are consultative and focus on students in the Primary Division (JK—Grade 3) because early intervention with communication problems is felt to be most effective.

The Family of Schools Speech Language Pathologist works with verbal students. Students with very limited or no speech are served by the Board’s Augmentative Communication Team. Students with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are supported by the Board’s ASD Team.

Approximately 10% of school aged children experience some form of speech or language difficulty. A Family of Schools Speech Language Pathologist may see between 500 and 800 students each year.

What is a Communication Disorder?

Language:

Limited understanding or use of words.*

Trouble understanding spoken or written language.*

Difficulty combining words to make sentences or express ideas.*

**Not due to English being a second language.*

Articulation : Difficulty pronouncing sounds which are typically pronounced well by children of the same age.

Stuttering: Difficulty speaking smoothly without long hesitations, repeating words or sounds, or struggling to get words out.

Voice: Persistent raspiness, hoarseness, or unusual vocal pitch.

Resonance:

“Nasal” voice, which may be due to cleft palate or other physical problems.

“Stuffy” voice, often related to large tonsils or adenoids.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Informal testing of kindergarten students to determine if they need speech or language support. Parent consent is required.
- Materials and suggestions for parents and teachers to help students with speech or language problems.
- Referrals to community agencies for support. Students must meet the specific criteria set by the agencies to qualify for these services. Speech Language Pathologists may assist parents in finding private speech or language therapy for their children.
- More in-depth testing of referred students, which may result in suggestions for an Individual Education Plan.
- Referral of some students to the Board’s Primary Speech and Language Centre.
- Short-term intervention with specially trained Educational Assistants for some students. The Family of Schools Speech Language Pathologist supervises the intervention.
- Workshops for parents and school staff about communication development, communication disorders, and ways to help students with communication problems.

