

The Whistle Stop



Speech and Language are not the same thing

At Language Express we help children who have difficulty with speech, language, or both. We also help with social communication and emergent literacy skills.

		What it is	Examples of Difficulties
SPEECH	Speech Sound Skills	Making speech sounds accurately.	Not being able to make the /k/ sound or always substituting /d/ for /g/.
	Motor Speech Skills	Moving the jaw, lips and tongue quickly and accurately to put sounds together easily and in the right order.	Using very few different sounds or having a lot of trouble with longer words. E.g. "buh-buh" instead of "Paw Patrol."
	Voice	Using the vocal folds and breath to make sounds.	A voice that is hoarse or too loud, soft, high or low.
	Fluency	The rhythm and smoothness of speech.	Stuttering.
LANGUAGE	Vocabulary	Knowing words and what they mean.	Understanding and/or using fewer words than expected; not using some types of words (like verbs).
	Grammar Knowledge	Knowing how to make new words and how to put words together.	Saying "Him walk" instead of "He is walking," or "Sam goed store" instead of "Sam went to the store."
SOCIAL COMMUNICATION		Knowing the social and cultural rules of communication.	Not making eye contact, not taking turns, having trouble reading facial expressions and body language, not staying on topic.
EMERGENT LITERACY SKILLS		The skills and knowledge young children need in order to be ready to learn to read and write.	Not being interested in books, not knowing how to hold a book, not knowing how to tell a story, not knowing letter names (for older preschoolers).

About Language Express

Language Express provides free speech and language assessment and therapy services for children from birth until the end of Junior Kindergarten in Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville counties. If you have concerns about your child's speech and language, don't wait and see! We can help your child and provide useful ideas for you and your child's caregivers or teachers.

When To Get Help:

- If your child is not meeting all of the communication milestones for their age. Go to www.language-express.ca to complete the Language Express Communication Checkup.
- If your child is stuttering.
- If your child's play or social interaction seems different from other children the same age.
- If your child's voice doesn't sound right.
- If your child has a diagnosis such as hearing loss, Autism Spectrum Disorder, or developmental delay.

Language Express accepts referrals for children from birth until **November 30 of the year they turn 4**. For example, children born in 2018 must be referred by **Nov. 30, 2022**. Visit our [milestones page](#) or complete the Language Express Communication Checkup to see if your child's development is on track and to make a referral. You can also call us for more information or to make a referral.

1-888-503-8885



Triple P Parenting Program



for every parent

Triple P is like a toolbox of ideas for parents. If you live in Lanark Leeds and Grenville you can access Triple P by calling 1-800-660-5853, emailing triplep@healthunit.org or visiting [Parenting - Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit](#).



Did you know?

American Sign Language contains all the fundamental features of language, with its own rules for pronunciation, word formation, and word order. In English we ask a question with rising intonation or by changing the order of words in a sentence. ASL users ask a question by raising their eyebrows, widening their eyes, or tilting their body forward. There are regional accents and dialects of ASL too.

Adapted from <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/american-sign-language> July 14/22



Language Deprivation can happen when the early brain development associated with being immersed in a language-rich environment doesn't happen as it should because a child doesn't have easy access to language. Parents should speak their own first language, or the language they are most comfortable in, with their children from birth. All day every day! For children who are deaf or hearing impaired it is essential to ensure access to language as early as possible to reduce the risk of language deprivation. This can be through hearing technology that gives the child access to spoken language, or through a visual language like ASL, or both.

