

The Whistle Stop



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. Don't wait and see! We can help your child and provide helpful 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**. 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

Can my child hear?



Two out of 1,000 babies have permanent hearing loss at birth and two more develop hearing loss by the age of five, so it's important to watch for warning signs and get children's hearing checked even if they pass the newborn screening. Children with hearing loss may hear some sounds but miss others, making it harder to learn speech and language.



Early Identification
of Hearing
Loss



Wearing Hearing Aids
or Cochlear Implants
10+ hours/day



Best Possible
Speech and
Language

Talk to your doctor or Nurse Practitioner about hearing testing if your child:

- Turns the TV up or sits closer to the TV
- Asks to have instructions repeated or responds inappropriately to questions
- Is easily distracted or bothered by background noise
- Has difficulty telling sounds apart
- Has trouble paying attention
- Has speech and language, school and learning, or behavioural problems¹
- Complains of difficulty hearing or blocked ears
- Watches others to copy what they are doing
- People have to raise their voice to get your child's attention
- Shows inconsistent response to sound
- Watches the speaker's face closely to figure out what the person is saying
- Talks in a soft or loud voice²
- Has had repeated ear infections (2+)

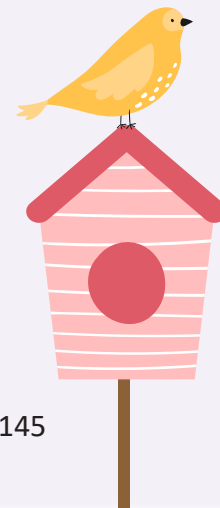
¹ Check that your child's speech and language development are on track with the Language Express Communication Checkup.

² Adapted from Southeast Infant Hearing Program. <https://www.kflaph.ca/en/healthy-living/early-signs-of-a-hearing-loss.aspx> (March 4/22)

The Ontario Infant Hearing Program provides:



- hearing screening for all newborns in the hospital or community setting
- assessments to identify permanent hearing loss
- monitoring of children who are at risk for developing hearing loss
- language development services (spoken or signed languages)



For more information about the Southeast Infant Hearing Program call 613-549-1232, ext. 1145 or visit Infant Hearing Program - [KFL&A Public Health](http://kflaph.ca) (kflaph.ca).

Expand your child's horizons (and language skills) with books



We've all been feeling cooped up by the pandemic and for young children this has also meant fewer opportunities to experience new people and places. Take a trip to the library and explore the world together through books...

Look for books about different cultures, far-away places, and new ideas. Let your child's natural curiosity lead you to great conversations and new learning about the amazing diversity of our world.



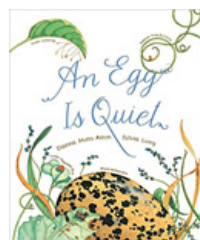
Books by Indigenous Canadian authors: **It's a Mitig!** By Bridget George



Books about different places and cultures:

A World Together by Sonia Manzano (preschool-KG)

A Ticket Around the World, by Natalia Diaz and Melissa Owens (Kindergarten+)



Books about specialized areas of interest: **An Egg is Quiet** by Dianna Aston

Visit the Hanen Book Nook for some great ideas for how to use a variety of children's books to promote language and literacy development: <http://www.hanen.org/Helpful-Info/Book-Nook.aspx>