

## Information for Parents

Welcome to Language Express! The following information will help you to know what to expect. [Welcome to Language Express \(3 ½ min. video\)](#)



### **Why is Speech and Language Therapy Important?**

Communication skills are critical to your child's future success in school and in life. Children who enter school with speech and language difficulties are more likely to struggle with learning to read. The younger we start with speech and language intervention the more of a difference we can make.

### **Children Under 24 Months**

If your child is under the age of 24 months and you have concerns about other areas of development as well as speech and language, you may wish to consider a referral to one of the Infant and Child Development Programs (ICDP) that serves our area. These services support a child's global development, including language skills.

Children can receive service from both Language Express and ICDP at the same time. If you have not already been referred to ICDP, you may call them directly at the numbers listed below.

Leeds & Grenville Infant Development Program ([Infant and Child Development Program - KidsInclusive](#)) (613)-544-3400

Lanark County Infant Development Program  
[Infant and Child Development - ConnectWell](#) (613) 257-7121

### **Parent Participation**

There is no better person to help your child learn than you! The speech-language pathologist will work with you and your child, to help your child become a better communicator. Parents and caregivers are expected to participate actively in therapy sessions so that they can learn the techniques

needed to help their children. Regular practice at home between therapy sessions is essential, and parent education programs may also be recommended.

### **How much service will my child receive?**

First, your child's communication skills will be assessed and the findings and recommendations for further intervention will be discussed with you.

After the assessment, the type and frequency of therapy visits will be determined according to your child's needs, ability to attend, and the type of service you and your family require. Parent Education programs, which parents attend without their children, may be recommended. Therapy visits with children are typically 30-45 minutes in length and may be weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or even quarterly if only monitoring is required. Visits may be individual or as part of a group program. Your child's name may go on a therapy waiting list if the type of service your child needs is not immediately available.

### **What does speech and language therapy look like?**

Speech and language therapy for preschoolers is play-based. We use lots of toys, books, and games to keep it fun. All activities are carefully planned to target your child's communication goals. Speech-language pathologists also can act as consultants. They advise parents, caregivers and teachers on ways to help develop children's communication skills.

### **Attendance / Cancellations**

We have many families waiting for service, and regular attendance at therapy sessions is important for progress. Your child's therapy appointments are carefully planned, and require considerable preparation time. Please inform your speech-language pathologist as soon as possible if you are unable to attend your appointment. Two absences without notification will result in discharge from the program. If your speech-language pathologist needs to cancel an appointment due to illness or other circumstances, she will attempt to contact

you as soon as possible to reschedule. For this reason, it is important that we have up-to-date contact numbers for you.

### **Illness**

Please call to cancel your appointment if you, your child, or anyone else in the home is sick. A sick child cannot benefit from a therapy session, and he or she exposes our staff and subsequent clients to the illness.

### **Confidentiality**

All information provided to the program is confidential, and is collected in accordance with privacy policies. Your S-LP can provide you with the policy upon request. Information may be shared with Language Express staff for program planning or referral purposes. We will ask for your written consent before sharing information with anyone else. As your child's legal guardian you have the right to read or request copies of anything in your child's file.

All staff are required by law to report any suspected abuse or neglect of children to a child protection agency.

### **Discharge**

Discharge from our program will occur:

- ☐ If your child's speech/language skills reach an age-appropriate level
- ☐ When your child reaches the age limit for Language Express
- ☐ If referral to another agency is more appropriate
- ☐ If you do not show up for your initial assessment appointment
- ☐ If you miss two therapy appointments without prior notification
- ☐ If you do not follow through with homework as requested
- ☐ If you decide to withdraw your child.

### **Other Services in the Community**

Other community agencies provide support for children with behaviour needs, physical disabilities, mental health issues, developmental delays, etc. If you would like information about any of these programs please call 211, or call us at the number below.

## **Coordinated Service Planning**

Coordinated Service Planning is available for families involved with more than one agency who would like help coordinating their child's services.

KidsInclusive is the lead agency for Coordinated Service Planning in Lanark, Leeds and Grenville. For more information, go to the [KidsInclusive website](#) or call the Language Express office.

Questions? Please don't hesitate to call the Language Express office at 283-2742 or 1-888-503-8885 (toll free).

Note: There are no fees or charges for our service

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