



York Region Preschool Speech and Language Program

FACT SHEET



From the time they are born, children start communicating. Very early in their lives, they learn to understand what you are saying and to make sounds of their own. They are beginning to develop speech and language skills that will help them make friends and learn to read and later, to succeed at school and in life. Communication skills are critical to your child's future success. About one in 10 children needs help developing normal speech and language skills. Without this help it can be a struggle to listen and talk, difficult to learn to read, and a challenge to play with other children.



Markham Stouffville Hospital receives funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to support speech and language services for preschoolers who live in York Region. The **York Region Preschool Speech and Language Program** provides services to children from birth to when they are eligible to start school. Assessment and a range of intervention services are provided to children and their families to support the development of communication skills, and to give children the best opportunity for healthy development.

How to Refer

If you live in York Region and have concerns about your child's speech and language skills, please contact us. Services are free and a doctor's referral is not required.

Call the York Region Kids Line at 1-888-703-KIDS (5437)



York Region Preschool Speech and Language Program

Intake: 1-888-703-KIDS(5437)

www.beyond-words.org

Fax: 905.762.2099



York Region Preschool Speech and Language Program

What does the Program offer?

We are committed to the prevention, early identification and treatment of speech and language difficulties. The **York Region Preschool Speech and Language Program** provides:

- Assessment of speech and language skills (translation services available if needed)
- Education Workshops for parents/caregivers around a variety of specific speech and language needs
- Coaching of parents/caregivers to learn skills and strategies which will help your child's communication development
- Intervention which may occur in groups, pairs or individual sessions depending on the needs of the child and family
- Material to support working on the speech and language goals at home
- Consultation to child care programs for specific children enrolled with our program
- Education Workshops for child care staff
- Transition planning with the York Region school boards for entry into school
- Partnering with other services providers or community agencies involved with the child and family

For more information and suggestions around speech and language development visit our website:

www.beyond-words.org

If in doubt, check it out!

Have your child's speech and language skills checked early if:

- ↳ Parents have concerns regarding speech and/or language development
- ↳ Speech and language skills have not improved over the past six months
- ↳ Previously obtained speech and language skills seem to have been lost
- ↳ Voice sounds unusual (e.g. always hoarse)
- ↳ Sounds and/or words are repeated often (e.g. stuttering)
- ↳ Child acts frustrated when trying to talk (especially after 2 years of age).
- ↳ Play seems inappropriate (e.g. lack of interest in toys or plays with toys in an unusual way)
- ↳ Social interaction seems unusual (e.g. rarely engages with smiling and eye contact)
- ↳ Inconsistent or no response when name is called (after 18 months of age)
- ↳ Feeding or swallowing difficulties are present