

The benefits of early referral

Early referral, identification, and intervention of speech and language difficulties are essential for a child's optimal learning, social development, and emotional health. Early speech and language abilities are strong predictors of later school performance.

Making a referral for preschool aged children

Referrals can be made through Public Health for children from birth to age 5. Any parent can make a referral by contacting their local health unit. Preschool teachers and health professionals can refer with parent permission.

Drop-in Referral Clinics

If parents are not sure if a referral is needed, we have Drop-in Referral Clinics at a number of our health units where you can consult with a Speech Language Pathologist. A brief 5 to 10 minute screening will determine if your child needs to be referred to the program.

Where to find more information

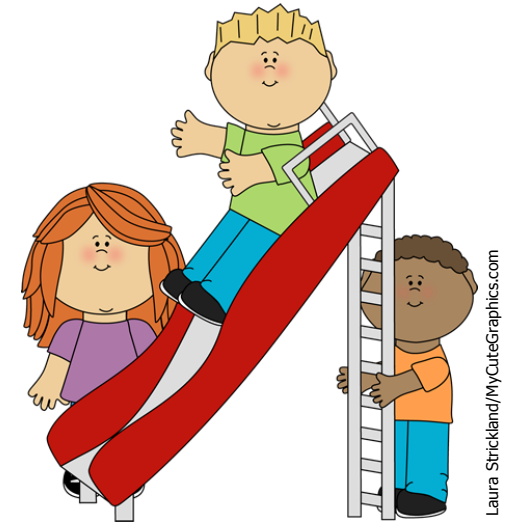
You can find the following information on the fraserhealth.ca website.

- Speech and Language Program Referral Form
- Drop-in Referral Clinic dates and times
- Health Unit contact information

To go directly to the Speech and Language Program pages, use this shortcut link:

goo.gl/reSfVf

Public Health Speech & Language Program



Laura Strickland/MyCuteGraphics.com

Referral Guide

www.fraserhealth.ca

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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To order: patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca

 **fraserhealth**

Birth – 12 months

- Vocalizes “ooh” and “ah”.
- Makes eye contact, smiles, and laughs.
- Imitates speech sounds.
- Babbles “buhbuhbuh” and “dada”.
- At 12 months, one word stands as a ‘sentence’.

Refer if your child . . .

- does not engage in vocal play
- does not seem responsive to sound or other distractions

One to Two Years

- Uses one to three word ‘sentences’ and phrases with or without made up words.
- A few word vocabulary at 16 months to about 200 words by 24 months.
- Understands simple questions, for example “where’s your mouth?”
- Uses sounds made with the lips, such as *p*, *b*, *m* and *w*.

Refer if your child . . .

- Has a limited vocabulary
 - Does not talk at all
- **Very important to refer now*

Two – Three Years

- Uses two to three word incomplete sentences.
- Approximately 1000 words by 3 years of age.
- Beginning to have short conversations with adults and peers.
- Follows 2-step directions.
- By 3 years old, speech is about 80% clear.
- Commonly used words are understandable.

Refer if your child . . .

- shows some frustration when trying to communicate
- is not understandable
- does not combine words
- shows signs of stuttering, for example repeats words or sounds



Three - Four Years

- Uses three to four word simple sentences.
- Asks many questions.
- Is able to pretend play and role play.
- May not say all sounds correctly.

Refer if your child . . .

- is not understandable
- continues to use short and simple phrases, for example “daddy go”
- is unable to follow directions

Four – Five Years

- Tells simple stories.
- Speech is almost 100% understandable.
- Sentence structure is complex.
- Follows 3-step directions.
- Uses adult like grammar.
- Might not be able to produce the following sounds: *r*, *ch*, *sh*, *l*, *th*, *s*.

Refer if your child . . .

- is not able to engage in conversations with adults or other children
- produces incomplete sentences
- stutters
- is not understandable
- is not able to follow directions