



## Warning Signs...when to call us

### How do I know if I should refer a child for an assessment?

The following information may be useful for deciding whether a referral to a Speech-language pathologist is needed. Please note, however, that these are guidelines only and if you are in any doubt please refer to Early Expressions. We always welcome early referrals!

### General Warning Signs for Referral

- Repeated history of ear infections
- Current hearing loss
- An unusual voice quality
- Stuttering
- Has a physical diagnosis e.g. cerebral palsy, cleft palate, etc.
- Parent or teacher concern about the child's development
- Family history of speech, language and/or hearing problems
- Inappropriate social skills; difficulty relating to others
- Delays in one or more areas of development or a learning difficulty
- Family history of learning difficulties or disabilities

### Key Warning Signs for Language Delay

- Does not share attention/emotion with eye gaze and facial expression
- No pointing or other communicative gestures by age 1
- Does not appear to understand
- No words by 15 months
- Does not join two words together by age 2
- Simple grammar at age 3 ½
- Trouble with ideas and vocabulary at age 4
- Has not reached normal speech and language milestones
- Anytime the parent expresses a concern**

### Key Warning Signs for Speech Delay

- Uses few consonant sounds
- Babbled little as a baby
- Delay only in use of consonant sounds and words
- Consonants dropped at beginning or end of simple words
- Uses only simple syllables
- Cannot be understood by unfamiliar people
- History of chronic, recurrent ear infections
- Hoarse or unusual voice quality
- Repeats or gets stuck on sounds and words
- Has not reached normal speech and language milestones
- Anytime the parent expresses a concern**

**If the child has any of these warning signs please call:  
Early Expressions at (613) 546-3854 or 1-800-267-7875**