



Kid Talk!



**SPEECH TO HOME CONNECTION
NURSERY & KINDERGARTEN**

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Talking Tools

Talking Tools are strategies that parents can use to help develop their child's speech and language skills. A child who has strong speech and language skills will become a better reader and writer.

Talking Tools can be used at any time, in any order:

"Get down to your child's level" - Children learn best by watching your face and mouth as you talk. Make sure that you are down at your child's level (face-to-face) when you are talking to him/her.

"Wait a few seconds before you reply to what children say" - Make sure you wait and give your child enough time to think about what he is going to say. Often times, waiting gives children the opportunity to say more (and practice more language).

Alphabet Sound Book

Using full pieces of paper, staple the corner or fold pages in half and staple along the folded edge to make a book. Personalize the title page by having your child draw or glue a picture of him/herself on the cover. Decorate it to make it special.

- Beginning with letter **A**— encourage your child to copy a large letter in the middle of the page. (Help your child as needed.)
- Cut out pictures from newspapers, magazines, flyers, old catalogues, or have children draw or print pictures from the internet. Pick pictures that start with the sound that the letter makes. For example, Letter **C** will have pictures of things like: cat, cake, cow, car, clock, and can. Letter **D** will have words like dog and doll etc.
- Emphasize the sound that the letter makes at the beginning of each word. E.g. Car and cake both start with the "C" sound (make the hard C sound).



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WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

CLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES
Department of Communication Disorders

Have you Heard...?

When should my child's hearing be tested?

- History of ear infections
- Family history of hearing problems
- Doesn't respond when his/her name is called
- Many sound errors (hard to understand) or delayed talking (after age 2)
- If your child is Nursery age or younger and has any of the above noted concerns
- All children (preschool or school age) should have their hearing tested at least once to make sure it is normal



Why is hearing important for learning?

- Children who can't hear well may have difficulty learning to speak
- Most learning occurs through speaking and listening and requires good hearing

Where can I take my child to have a hearing test?

- If your child is in Nursery School or younger, **FREE** hearing tests are available through **Specialized Services for Children & Youth (SSCY)**. Discuss a referral with your Family Doctor or call (204)787-8615 for more information or to book an appointment.
- If your child attends a school within the **Winnipeg School Division (Kindergarten to Grade 12)**, there are **FREE** hearing tests available. Discuss your concerns with your child's school.



How to teach proper speech?

You may notice that your child doesn't say some words or sounds correctly. While it is very important to focus on what your child is trying to tell you—you can help children's speech development, by giving them a good speech model.

It might sound like this:

- **Child:** "This is a nake!"
- **Parent:** You're right—That is a **SSSSSnake!**

By doing this you are letting children hear the correct speech model.



IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S SPEECH OR LANGUAGE SKILLS, TALK TO YOUR SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST.