



Speech and Hearing Professionals

One in ten Canadians has a speech, language, or hearing disorder. Seek the services of a qualified professional. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists are highly trained, important collaborative partners in the primary health care system, working to maximize communication and, in turn, participation in the community.

Consumers should seek the services of a qualified professional. Find a speech-language pathologist or audiologist near you using the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists' online database. Searchable by location, profession, area of interest, facility and age group serviced.

www.caslpa.ca



Communication Begins at Birth

Babies learn to talk by listening to all the voices and sounds around them — and babies develop at different rates. Some babies take longer than others to develop speech and language. Here are some ways you can help:

- Talk to your baby when dressing, washing or feeding him/her.
- Play simple games, like "peek-a-boo."
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes.
- Read to your baby, using picture books and talking about what you see.
- Praise your child's efforts to communicate.

Check the yellow pages or visit the Find a Professional area of our web site to find a speech-language pathologist or audiologist near you.

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Get the Facts on Speech and Hearing!

Did You Know???

- One in ten Canadians has a speech, language or hearing problem. This affects tens of thousands of individuals.
- Hearing loss is the third most prevalent chronic disability among older adults.
- Adult hearing loss can start as early as the third or fourth decade of life.
- Children with behavioural disorders are ten times more likely to have undetected language disorders.
- Communication disorders in school-aged children are often misdiagnosed as learning disabilities.
- An estimated 4% of pre-schoolers has a significant speech or language disorder.
- 1% of Canadians and 4% of pre-schoolers stutter.

Find out more...

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Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

Caring About Communication!

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Your Infant's Hearing Health

Does your child talk differently than most children of the same age? Does your child seem delayed in learning new words? Does your child ignore your voice when his back is turned? These signs may indicate hearing loss. Early detection of hearing loss is vital. No child is too young to have their hearing tested. If you suspect a problem, contact an audiologist — a professional trained to evaluate and treat people with hearing disorders.

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Seniors - Hear this and Speak Up

Seniors represent the fastest growing segment of our population, expected to make up 1/4 of the country's population. Many of these individuals are significantly affected by communication disorders and experience problems with their speech, language, swallowing and hearing. Hearing loss is the third most prevalent chronic disability among older adults and 6-12% of seniors experience speech, language or voice difficulties.



The services of speech-language pathologists and audiologists help seniors to improve their ability to communicate which allows them to optimize their health, independence, safety, socialization and overall quality of life. Early detection is vital! If you suspect a problem consult your yellow pages or visit the Find a Professional area of our website to find a speech-language pathologist or audiologist near you.

When to Suspect Your Child has a Speech or Hearing Problem

Speech: When your **18 month old** does not: use 10 or more words to communicate... follow simple commands... imitate words and sounds. When your **two year old** does not use two or more word sentences to express himself... understand concepts like up, down, big, little or try to say his own name. When your **three year old** is not easily understood by an adult friend outside the family... does not use "me or you" in speech... does not ask questions using "what"... is not pronouncing the m, n, ng, p, f, or h sound in words or is not using three to four word sentences.

Hearing: When your **newborn** does not: respond to noises at three months... look towards a speaker or sound at three to six months... smile when spoken to at three to six months or vocalize and babble alone or with others at three to six months. When your **18 month old** does not point and gesture to call attention to objects or events... does not use words to get what he wants or continuously pulls at ears. When your **three year old** turns up the television or radio louder than other family members or does not hear you call from another room.

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If you suspect a problem, contact a professional. Check the yellow pages or visit the Find a Professional area of our web site to find a speech-language pathologist or audiologist near you.

May is Speech & Hearing Month!

Many of us take our hearing and ability to speak for granted. For one in ten Canadians however, speech, language or hearing problems are a daily challenge.

The Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA), and our 4,600 members across the country are working together throughout the month of May to raise public awareness concerning the professions and the many issues surrounding speech, language and hearing disorders. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists work daily with Canadians of all ages to help them deal with many different types of communication disorders. Whether working with an autistic child, or a person recovering from a stroke, they strive tirelessly to help improve the quality of life and health of the people they serve.

May Month has been celebrated across North America since 1927 and promotes and celebrates both the professions and the contributions made by speech-language pathologists and audiologists to the health of all Canadians. Watch for exciting events in your community such as hearing screenings, speech clinic open houses, contests, radio talk shows and other activities.

If you would like to know more, please visit our web site www.caslpa.ca or contact your provincial speech and hearing association.



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Noisy Toys and MP3s - Preventing Hearing Damage in Children

Be cautious when purchasing toys for your children. Toys emitting loud sounds/noise have the potential to harm hearing if held too closely to the ears and face. Personal listening devices such as MP3 players are also cause for concern if utilized for extended periods of time at loud volume. Audiologists recommend the following safety tips: choose items with an on/off button and volume control; limit exposure; try out the toy before making a purchase; teach children to play with their toys as intended – at arm's length; opt for books/games that target language and literacy skills. If you have to raise your voice above the noise level of a toy to be heard, than the noise is too loud and could be causing damage to your child's hearing. Being an informed consumer and making informed choices can help protect your child's hearing for life.

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