



SPRING 2008

HALDIMAND-NORFOLK HEALTH UNIT

COMMUNICATION MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, EARLY LEARNING PROVIDERS AND CAREGIVERS OF PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN.



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We Sing That They Shall Speak

*Speech, like song, unites the voices of children and ours in common understanding.
Like singing, speech is easily learned by some; for others, special effort is required.*

Partners Working
Together To Help
Our Children



June Workshops

There are NO COST for the Workshops!

To register, contact Debby Field,
Speech Program Secretary at 519-426-6170 Ext. 3243

★ Language & Literacy Workshop

"Don't just READ the book!"

Come and learn about Emergent Literacy (skills that lead to reading and writing). Some of these include letter/print knowledge, sound awareness and oral language. These lay the foundation for reading in Kindergarten and Grade 1.

Simcoe Health Unit

June 18, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Caledonia Health Unit

June 19, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

★ Speech Sounds Workshops

For parents, teachers, early learning providers and interested caregivers.

Come and learn how and where speech sounds are made and how speech develops. Learn about some fun activities to do with your child at home.

Simcoe Health Unit

June 11, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Dunnville Health Unit

June 12, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Speaking Out For Children

The Grand Erie Chapter of the OAFCCD, "Ontario Association for Families of Children With Communication Disorders," would like to acknowledge a generous donation (\$512) received from the Barbershoppers Harmonize for Speech Fund. This donation is allowing us to purchase the following:

- Six parent manuals for the Hanen® workshop "More Than Words" to lend to families participating in the program held by the Haldimand-Norfolk Preschool Speech and Language Program. These

manuals would otherwise cost parents \$52.

- 20 "Signing Through the Day" manuals with accompanying DVDs for parents at no cost.
- 10 parent resource binders for parents to have for our "Parents as Partners" workshops being held throughout Haldimand and Norfolk.

A very BIG "thank you" to the Barbershoppers Harmonize for Speech Fund for helping the "O" to help families of children with communication disorders in our community.

THIS ISSUE

May Is Speech and Hearing Awareness Month.	2
It Matters To This One	2
Kids Who Are Different	2
Speech vs. Language	3
Preschool Speech and Language Has a New Look and Home	3
I Took His Hand and Followed	4

May Is Speech and Hearing Awareness Month



May is **Speech and Hearing Awareness Month**, the one month in the year when thousands of professionals involved with the treatment of speech, language and hearing disorders come together to participate in a public awareness campaign that encourages early detection and prevention of communication disorders, and seeks to increase the public's sensitivity to the challenges faced by individuals experiencing them.

Throughout the month of May the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA), and our more than 5,000 members – speech-language pathologists, audiologists and related supportive personnel across Canada – will be hard at work raising public awareness concerning their professions and the many issues surrounding speech, language and hearing disorders.

Watch for exciting May month events in your community, such as fundraisers, speech clinic open houses, radio talk shows and other activities.

*A child is like a butterfly in the wind.
Some can fly higher than others;
But each one flies the best it can.
Why compare one against the other?
Each one is different.
Each one is special.
Each one is beautiful.*

Unknown

It Matters To This One

As I walked along the seashore, this young boy greeted me. He was tossing stranded starfish back to the deep blue sea. I said, "Tell me why you bother, why you waste your time this way. There's a million stranded starfish, does it matter anyway?"

And he said, "It matters to this one. It deserves a chance to grow. It matters to this one, I can't save them all I know. But it matters to this one, I'll return it to the sea. It matters to this one, and it matters to me."

I walked into the classroom, The teacher greeted me. She was helping Johnny study, he was struggling I could see. I said, "Tell me why you bother, why waste your time this way. Johnny's only one of millions, does it matter anyway?"

And she said, "It matters to this one, he deserves a chance to grow. It matters to this one, I can't save them all I know. But it matters to this one, I'll help him be what he can be. It matters to this one, and it matters to me."

Unknown

Kids Who Are Different

Here's to the kids who are different
The kids who don't always get A's.
The kids who have ears twice the size
of their peers,
And noses that go on for days....

Here's to the kids who are different,
The kids they call crazy or dumb,
The kids who don't fit in,
With the guts and the grit,
Who dance to the beat of a
different drum....

Here's to the kids who are
different,
The kids with the mischievous
streak,
For when they have grown,
As history's shown,
It's their difference that makes
them unique.

author Digby Wolfe



Speech vs. Language

All children seem slow in the early stages of learning language, but some children continue to have problems.

As a parent, you may have become concerned about your child's speech and language development. Your child may be learning to speak later than you expected, or your child's speech may be unclear. You may notice that your child needs you to repeat directions before completing a task correctly.

The earlier your child is diagnosed the better. Speech therapy is available even for infants. You should not "wait and see" if a problem goes away or continues. You may miss many months of valuable therapy.

A speech or language delay describes a child whose skills are developing, but at a slower rate than normal. A speech problem can be mild, moderate or severe.

A speech or language problem affects your child's emotional and social interaction with your family, among friends and in school.

What are language disorders?

Language is a system of verbal, written or gestured symbols that are used to communicate. Language has several parts that develop at the same time. Language is divided into content, form and use.

- Content, or semantics, refers to the meaning of the message.
- Form includes grammar and syntax. Grammar and syntax refer to rules that define the structure and organization of words to form sentences.
- Use refers to the use of language both verbal and non-verbal.

- Receptive and expressive language disorders:
- A receptive language disorder means that you have difficulty understanding the content, form or use of language.
- An expressive language disorder means you have trouble using content, form or use of language when trying to convey a message.

What are speech disorders?

Speech is the actual sound of spoken language. Speech is divided into three parts: articulation and phonology, voice, and fluency.

- Articulation is making sounds. Children who have articulation problems will probably substitute, leave out or distort normal speech sounds at inappropriate ages. For example, it is not unusual for three-year-olds to substitute the "f" sound for "th" in their speech: "I am firsty (thirsty)." These errors should not, however, be present in the speech of a child over five. Phonology is the sound system of a language and the rules of sound sequences that make up words. A phonological disorder is failing to grow out of patterns such as babbling or developing inappropriate sound patterns.
- Voice disorders are when there is an abnormal voice quality, pitch or loudness that may result from an abnormal larynx (voice box) or breathing pathway. It may be caused by misuse or abuse of the voice box (for example, habitual screaming).
- Fluency disorders are problems with rate and rhythm of the flow of speech, such as stuttering.



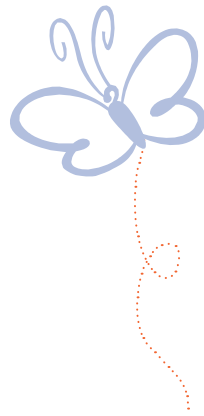
Preschool Speech and Language Has a New Look and Home

The Norfolk end of the Haldimand-Norfolk Preschool Speech and Language Program has a new home. We are glad to welcome clients into our new entrance, which is located on the east end of the Heath Unit building at 12 Gilbertson Dr. in Simcoe (former CAMHS Community Addictions and Mental Health Services). The move wasn't far for most of us, just down the hall and we are still settling in. Jennifer Moore, our Speech Language Pathologist who was based in Delhi, has now joined us here in Simcoe. Lori Holstein (Speech Language Pathologist), Jennifer Moore, Lisa Columbus (Communicative Disorders Assistant), Shauna Barrow (Speech Language Assistant), Becky Pow (Parent Program Assistant) and Debby Field (Program Secretary) are all very excited to be here together and anxious to show off our newly painted and decorated offices.

Now clients and parents will have the opportunity to meet Debby, the voice they become very familiar with on the phone as she greets them upon arrival. Debby looks forward to getting

the opportunity to meet the children in person. We hope our new space is both more inviting and child centered. Thank you to everyone for your patience with the confusion, as we get settled in and inform everyone about the new entrance.





I Took His Hand and Followed



My dishes went unwashed today
I didn't make my bed
I took his hand and followed
Where his eager footsteps led.

Oh yes, we went adventuring
My little child and I
Exploring all the great outdoors
Beneath the sun and sky.

We watched a robin feed her young
We climbed a sunlit hill
Saw cloud-sheep scamper through
the sky

We plucked a daffodil.
That my house was so neglected
That I didn't brush the stairs
In twenty years no one on earth
Will know or even care.

But that I've helped my child
To noble adulthood grow
In twenty years the whole wide
world
May look and see and know.

Author unknown



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Communication Matters is published biannually by the Haldimand-Norfolk Preschool Speech and Language program. It has been developed to increase awareness for services available and tips on the prevention of speech, language or hearing disorders in the preschool population. This newsletter is intended for parents, teachers and caregivers of preschool-aged children. You are invited to contact the Health Unit with your articles and ideas.