

# Moving on to School



## Communication, Language & Speech Services in the Upper Grand District School Board

*Dear Parents,*

When your child enters kindergarten, you may be wondering how Speech and Language Services will be provided for your child.

**Wee Talk** preschool speech and language services continue to work with children while they are in **Junior Kindergarten**. Wee Talk will discharge children when they are old enough to enter Senior Kindergarten. The **Upper Grand District School Board Speech-Language Pathologist (S-LP)** for your child's school can help share information between Wee Talk services and the school, when needed. Your **Wee Talk S-LP** can contact the school board to arrange this.

Once children are in **Senior Kindergarten** (or are Senior Kindergarten age) your child may be eligible for speech and language services provided at school by an **Upper Grand District School Board S-LP**.



### **How will the school board Speech-Language Pathologist (S-LP) know about my child?**

With parent permission, the Wee Talk S-LPs send us:

- a list at the end of May that tells us the name, areas of difficulty and school of each child being discharged that year
- a discharge report of your child's communication strengths and needs before school starts.

### **How does the school board S-LP decide if my child is eligible for service at school?**

Because we are an educational setting, our services focus on helping students who are at risk for speaking, listening, reading, writing, and learning difficulties in school and those with complex communication needs.

These students typically have moderate to severe difficulties in some of the following areas: articulation/phonology (pronunciation of speech sounds), pre-literacy skills, receptive language, expressive language, and/or pragmatics (social use of language).

In the fall term, the S-LP assigned to your child's school will be reviewing your child's discharge report when it arrives from Wee Talk.



If follow-up was recommended by your Wee Talk S-LP:

- You will receive a letter from the school requesting your consent to allow your child to participate in a brief Kindergarten Communication Skills Evaluation. This is available to some students in senior kindergarten when the teacher has questions about their communication or learning skills.
- We encourage you to provide this permission for your child so that the school S-LP can meet with your child and decide on the speech and language services that may be needed.
- Following this evaluation, the S-LP will be in touch with you to let you know about whether your child is eligible for service and the next steps.

### ***If my child is eligible for service at school, what will it look like?***

A variety of services are provided by the school S-LP to meet the communication needs of students, which may include:

- Consultation with the classroom teacher and school team
- Classroom suggestions for specific areas of need
- Classroom based assessment of learning strengths and needs
- Individual standardized and/or informal assessment
- Direct language intervention provided by a Communication, Language and Speech Assistants, under the supervision of the S-LP, when appropriate
- Referral to other service providers such as Audiologists, medical professionals, community services or the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) who provides speech therapy services at school for children with moderate to severe difficulty with stuttering, speech sound production, voice or feeding / swallowing.



### ***What else is available if my child is not eligible for Communication, Language and Speech Services at School?***

If your Wee Talk S-LP has said that your child's difficulties are mild, you may have been given information about S-LPs in your area who provide private practice for a fee. If you have third party insurance, you may have some coverage for this service.

If you haven't received private practice information, you can contact the Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists at [www.osla.on.ca](http://www.osla.on.ca) or the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario at [www.caslpo.com](http://www.caslpo.com)



### ***Who can I call if I still have questions?***

Call Trudy Counter  
Coordinator of Communication, Language & Speech Services  
519-941-6191, extension 248  
or toll free: 1-888-535-5528, extension 248



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