

SPEECH DELAY

Is my child's speech development normal? Speech and language development can vary from one child to the next.

The Canadian Pediatric Society's website for parents, *Caring for Kids*, has a list of normal developmental milestones.

Please click on the link below for more information:

https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/your_childs_development

What evaluation is needed for speech delay? A visit to your pediatrician will help guide the assessment. Often, a hearing test by an audiologist will be recommended, as it is important to rule out hearing loss as a cause of speech delay.

To determine the extent of the delays, your pediatrician may recommend an evaluation by a speech language pathologist (SLP). SLPs specialize in assessing and treating speech and language delays in children.

In Calgary, children from 0-5 years of age can be assessed by the Preschool Speech & Language Service provided through Alberta Health Services. Parents can self-refer by calling 403-955-1300.

If your child is in school (>5 years old), SLP assessments can be done through the school system. Please talk to your child's teacher.

Alternatively, parents may decide to get a private assessment. This is not covered by Alberta Health Services, but may be covered by some private insurance plans. For a current list of private SLPs, please go to the website <http://asapp.ca/> and look under SLP Listings at the top.

Promoting your child's speech and language development starts in early infancy. Here are some great resources for you:

- https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/read_speak_sing_to_your_baby
- https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/promoting_reading_in_school_aged_children