

Supporting Your Child's Communication in Kindergarten

Speech and Language

Speech-Language Pathologists (S-LPs) at DDSB collaborate with educators and families to nurture oral language, play, social interactions, reading, and writing within the play-based kindergarten classroom. We recognize and value that children enter kindergarten with their own strengths, experiences, and ways of communicating, and that each child will continue developing new skills at their own pace.

As your child begins school, their communication and social skills will help them make friends, follow routines, and take part in classroom activities. Every child communicates in their own way—through spoken languages (like English or Hindi), sign language, facial expressions, gestures, pictures, or technology like speech-generating devices.

Hearing and Vision

Hearing and vision are key to learning, playing, and communicating.

Consider having your child's hearing and vision checked, especially if you notice:

- Frequent ear infections
- Speaking loudly or asking others to repeat
- Squinting or covering one eye
- Rubbing or touching their eyes often

Build Language and Literacy Skills Through Everyday Activities

You don't need special tools to build language and literacy skills —just everyday moments!

Try these simple ideas:

- **Play together every day:** Whether it's board games, sports, or pretending with toys, play helps children learn new words and social skills while having fun!
- **Talk about what you see and do:** Language is everywhere! Discuss what you see and do during walks, drives, or daily routines such as trips to the grocery store.
- **Encourage your child to tell stories or explain things:** Provide opportunities for your child to share and use language by asking them to explain how they made/built something or telling you about their day (e.g., "what was something that made you laugh today?").
- **Read and tell stories in your home language:** Learning two or more languages does not cause speech or language delays. In fact, it benefits children's well-being, language and literacy development, as well as their thinking and learning skills.

Need Support?

Here are some helpful resources for families:

- [Eye See...Eye Learn Program](#) – Free eye exams and help finding an optometrist
- [Grandview Kids](#) – Preschool speech-language services and tips for home
- [College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario \(CASLPO\)](#) – An on-line public register to find licensed speech-language pathologists or audiologists
- [DDSB Speech, Language & Hearing Services](#) – Learn more about speech, language, and hearing services at DDSB

