

# Preparing for your child's transition to Kindergarten

**SUCCESS  
STARTS  
EARLY!**

At St. Albert Public Schools, our main goal is to provide the necessary support and services to ensure that Kindergarten students succeed in the classroom. Our team of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are here to help with all aspects of speech, language and communication.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's communication skills and they are enrolled in our schools, we are offering online screening appointments with our SLPs.

## Speech and Language Milestones for 4 & 5 year olds

### Language

- Uses 4-5 word sentences, and some should be quite a bit longer
- Speaks in grammatically correct sentences most of the time
- Asks and answers a variety of questions (who, what, where, when, why, how)
- Follows 3-step directions
- Tells a story he/she has heard
- Answers simple questions about a book
- Pays attention to a 5-10 minute story

### Speech Sounds

- Speech is understood most of the time
- Your child might still say "wabbit" for "rabbit", "wadder" for "ladder" or "fum" for "thumb" but people will still know what they mean

### Social Skills

- Follows rules and takes turns when playing games with other children
- Keeps a conversation going with more than 3 back and forth exchanges
- Can discuss their emotions and feelings

If your child attends a screening appointment and is found to have difficulties in speech and language, the SLP will schedule a follow up assessment. This assessment will be booked for another date, and will take approximately 45-60 minutes to complete.

By identifying any speech or language challenges early on, we can provide interventions and resources to help your child succeed in the classroom.

## What are some signs of a language delay?

Some include:

- Difficulties understanding simple directions. This is different from a child who just might not want to do something they are told to do.
- Uses incorrect word order or grammar in sentences.
- Uses only 2 to 3 words in a sentence.
- Difficulties answering simple "WH" questions (who, what, where, when, why, how)
- Speech is very hard to understand (strangers do not understand your child). It is typical for children this age to have errors with "r", "th", "sh", "ch", and "l". If these are the only errors, a screening appointment is not needed.
- Your child does not respond when you call their name.
- Difficulties telling stories or describing a series of recent events.
- Challenges communicating with other children and adults outside of your immediate home.

If you believe your child is having difficulties in any of the above areas, we encourage you to schedule a 15-20 minute online screening appointment with one of our speech-language pathologists. If English is not the primary language spoken at home, please consider these questions in relation to the main language that your child hears, understands and speaks.



You will receive an email in February with a link to schedule an online appointment.

### Questions?

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