



What are the benefits of a Speech-Language assessment?

Speech-Language Pathologists have specialized training in speech, language and communication.

- SLPs' assessments and consultations may identify your child's communication strengths, challenges and needs.
- SLPs can provide programming suggestions to the school, to help improve your child's communication skills and learning potential.
- SLPs may make recommendations for specialized equipment to assist your child at school.
- The SLP may refer you to other sources of help.

What are the risks?

Your child will miss some class time during the testing.

Some children may find the tests tiring or challenging at times. Our SLPs are well trained and will stop the testing if your child is unable to continue.

A Speech-Language assessment and consultation may identify some challenging areas for your child that you did not expect. In most cases, you will already be aware of some of these challenges. Although this new information may be upsetting for you and your child initially, it will help your child in the long run, as it may lead to the support your child needs.

Contacts

The following organizations also have information of interest:

College of Audiologist and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO)
1-800-993-9459

Ontario Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists (OSLA)
1-877-740-6009

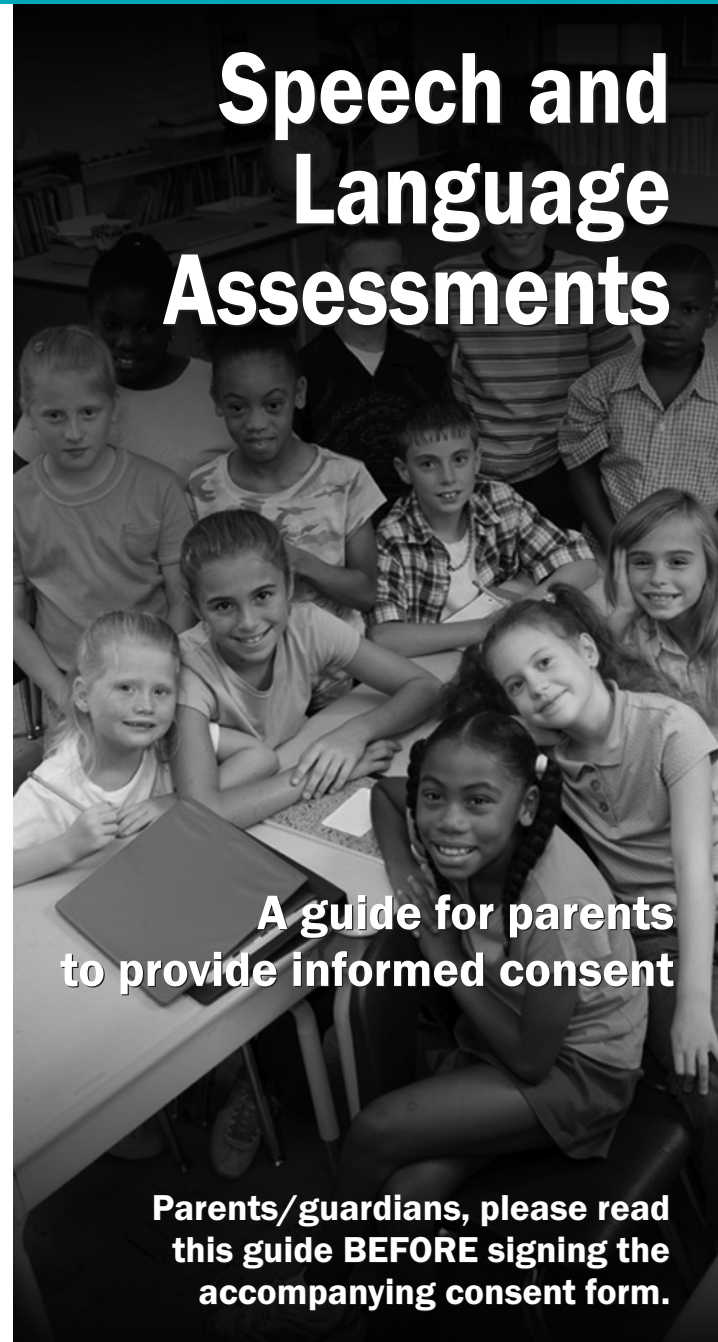
More information on Speech and Language Services is available in the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board brochures titled Speech and Language Services - Clarington, and Speech and Language Services - Northumberland and Peterborough Counties

For more information, please call the Speech-Language Pathologist or your child's school principal.



Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
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This brochure is designed to help parents and guardians understand Speech-Language assessments in the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board.

Why is your child being tested?

You or school staff may have become concerned with how your child's speech, language or general communication abilities may be affecting school performance.

Why is your permission needed?

As regulated health care professionals and school board employees, Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) must comply with health care laws. These include the Regulated Health Professions Act, Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Act, the Personal Health Information Protection Act and the Health Care Consent Act. Ontario law requires that a responsible person must give "informed consent" for any services provided by the SLP, before service begins. "Informed consent" means that you must understand what services we will be offering, the benefits, risks and any alternative courses of action.

For students under the age of 18, the Education Act requires that parents or guardians give written consent for our services.

If there is anything you do not understand or if you have any questions, please contact your child's principal before signing the consent form. You may withdraw your consent for Speech-Language services at any time by contacting the school principal or the SLP involved.

Who will complete the assessment?

The assessment and consultation will be completed by a Speech-Language Pathologist who is employed by the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board. All of our SLPs are registered with the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario.

What is involved in a Speech-Language assessment or consultation?

1. After you give your consent, the SLP will begin to collect information from you, your child and his or her teacher. This may be accomplished through interviews, by looking at your child's Ontario Student Record (OSR), by observing your child in the classroom, or by completing an assessment (testing). This information is used to measure your child's language skills, in areas including:

- speaking
- listening/understanding
- reading
- writing
- ability to use augmentative and alternative communication methods for students who are not able to talk
- ability to communicate and interact with other children
- speech and production of sounds.

2. If necessary, we may ask you for written permission to contact other people who have been involved with your child. This may include your family doctor, Children's Treatment Centres or local Community Care Access Centres.

3. The SLP will review and interpret the information about your child. The SLP will write a report describing the assessment, the results and recommendations to help your child. You will have the opportunity to meet with the SLP and school staff to discuss this report.

4. You will receive a copy of the report. Additional copies will be kept in the Speech-Language Pathologist's file, your child's OSR (school record) and the central file at the Board Office. The report will be kept on file until your child's 31st birthday. Unless you request in writing to have the report removed, only the principal can remove it from the OSR.

Are there other ways to get Speech-Language assistance for your child?

If you wish, you can hire a private Speech-Language Pathologist to complete the assessment. Please note that you will be responsible for any costs involved. Some workplace benefit packages may provide partial coverage.

If you receive a private assessment, we recommend that you share the results with your child's school. This way, the information can be used to improve your child's educational program.