Committed to Prevention

his brochure offers simple guidelines regarding key communication skills children typically acquire by a certain age.

If any of the following describe your child, he or she may be at risk of a communication disorder.

- low birth weight
- pre-maturity (less than 37 weeks)
- anoxia at birth
- family history of speech, language and/or learning problems
- family history of congenital or progressive hearing loss
- drug/alcohol use during pregnancy
- a history of repeated and/or chronic ear infections
- the child speaks loudly or often asks people to repeat

If any of the above are true of your child, consult a speech-language pathologist or audiologist right away as early intervention is key. You can find communication health professionals in your area at www.communicationhealth.ca.

Communication develops over time and every child develops at his or her own rate. The growth chart in this brochure outlines the ages at which most children will reach speech, language and hearing milestones. If a child does not develop one of the skills at the identified age range, it does not necessarily mean there is a problem. However, if you answer 'No' to most of the items on the checklist at or below a child's age, you should consult a speech-language pathologist and/or an audiologist.

Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

hildren are at risk of developing social, emotional, behavioural and/or learning problems if speech, language and/ or hearing problems are not identified early. Early intervention is critical for children with communication problems. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists are involved in the prevention, identification and treatment of a child's speech, language and hearing disorders in partnership with parents, physicians, educators and health-care providers, as difficulties with communication affect the whole family.

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) is the national association for speech-language pathologists, audiologists and supportive personnel working with these professionals in Canada. SAC represents over 6,000 members, championing their professional needs, supporting continuing education and providing a comprehensive range of services, thereby maximizing the communication potential of all people in Canada.

Speech, Language and Hearing Milestones

Prevent, Protect, Act



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada Communicating care

www.sac-oac.ca

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Find a professional near you

www.communicationhealth.ca



Birth to 3 months:

Does the child:

- make cooing sounds . have different cries for different needs •
- smile at you •
- startle to loud sounds •
- soothe/calm to a familiar voice •

4 to 6 months:

Does the child:

- babble and make different sounds .
- make sounds back when you talk •
- enjoy games like peek-a-boo .
- turn his/her eyes toward a sound source •
- respond to music or toys that make noise .

7 to 12 months:

Does the child: YES NO wave hi/bye • respond to his/her name • let you know what he/she wants using . sounds, and/or actions like pointing begin to follow simple directions • (e.g., Where is your nose?) localize correctly to sound by turning • his/her head toward the sound

YES

YES

VEC

NO

NO

 \square

NO

 \square

pay attention when spoken to .

By 12 to 18 months:

Does the child:

•	use common words and start to put	
	words together	
٠	enjoy listening to storybooks	
•	point to body parts or pictures in a	
	book when asked	
٠	look at your face when talking to you	

By 18 to 24 months:

Does the child:

 understand more words than he/she can say say two words together (e.g., More juice) ask simple questions (e.g., What's that?) take turns in a conversation 				
2 to 3 years:				
Does the child:	YES	NO		
 use sentences of three or more words most of the time understand different concepts 				
 Generation of the first concepts (e.g., in-on; up-down) follow two-part directions 				
 (e.g., take the book and put it on the table) answer simple questions (e.g., Where is the car?) participate in short conversations 				
3 to 4 years:				
Does the child:		NO		
 tell a short story or talk about daily activities talk in sentences with adult-like grammar generally speak clearly so people understand hear you when you call from another room listen to TV at the same volume as others answer a variety of questions 				
4 to 5 years:				
Does the child:		NO		
pronounce most speech sounds correctlyparticipate in and understand conversations				
 even in the presence of background noise recognize familiar signs (e.g., stop sign) make up rhymes hear and understand most of what is said at 				
home and school				
 listen to and retell a story and ask and answer questions about a story 				

YES

NO