



# ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

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## **Children's Speech and Language Development is a Concern for Everyone!**

! Speech and language disorders are the largest disabling condition in society affecting up to 10% of the population.

! Speech and language skills are the most critical human functions allowing for full participation in society because:

- g Language provides the main method of establishing and maintaining social relationships.
- g Language constitutes a principal means of organizing behaviour and is central to the normal acquisition of many cognitive and academic skills, particularly literacy.

! Speech and language disorders are strongly related to failure in reading and writing.

! The child with an unresolved language problem at school typically has problems in learning to read and write, may be isolated due to difficulties in socializing, and eventually may have great difficulty in getting and holding a job.

! Children with communication disorders can become so frustrated by their lack of understanding or ability to express themselves that they misbehave.

! Children with behavioural disorders are 10 times more likely than other children to have unsuspected language disorders.

! Drop out rate in children with speech and language disorders is higher compared to non-impaired children.

### **If this information surprises and concerns you there are several things you can do.**

**If you are a parent of a child who might have a communication disorder, seek help.**

TIf your child is at school, talk to the classroom teacher.

TIf your child has not started school, call the local Health Unit or OAFCCD to get the contact number for Preschool Speech and Language Services in your area.

**If you want to help advocate for more speech and language services in your community.**

TShare this information with other people.

T**Pass out copies of the May Calender, with Parent and Child Activities for Better Speech, Language and Hearing.**

T**Call OAFCCD and ask for more ideas on how you can help.**