## **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.



## @ 2014 SAC

Copyright is held by Speech-Language and Audiology Canada. Permission to reproduce or reprint this document for educational purposes is not required; however, appropriate credit must be included. If the material is used exactly as is, please include the text "Source: Speech-Language and Audiology Canada, <a href="https://www.sac-oac.ca">www.sac-oac.ca</a>" If this material is used in part or modified from its original format, please include the text: "Adapted from Speech-Language and Audiology Canada, year, publication name, article title, <a href="https://www.sac-oac.ca">www.sac-oac.ca</a>"

# Speech, Language and Hearing Milestones

# Prevent, Protect, Act



www.sac-oac.ca

## Find a professional near you

www.communicationhealth.ca

### Birth to 3 months: By 18 to 24 months: Does the child: Does the child: YES NO YES NO make cooing sounds understand more words than he/she can say have different cries for different needs say two words together (e.g., More juice) П ask simple questions (e.g., What's that?) smile at you startle to loud sounds take turns in a conversation soothe/calm to a familiar voice 2 to 3 years: 4 to 6 months: Does the child: YES NO Does the child: YES NO use sentences of three or more words most of the time babble and make different sounds understand different concepts make sounds back when you talk (e.g., in-on; up-down) enjoy games like peek-a-boo follow two-part directions turn his/her eyes toward a sound source (e.g., take the book and put it on the table) respond to music or toys that make noise answer simple questions (e.g., Where is the car?) 7 to 12 months: participate in short conversations 3 to 4 years: Does the child: YES NO wave hi/bye Does the child: YES NO respond to his/her name let you know what he/she wants using tell a short story or talk about daily activities talk in sentences with adult-like grammar sounds, and/or actions like pointing begin to follow simple directions generally speak clearly so people understand (e.g., Where is your nose?) hear you when you call from another room localize correctly to sound by turning listen to TV at the same volume as others his/her head toward the sound П answer a variety of questions pay attention when spoken to 4 to 5 years: By 12 to 18 months: Does the child: YES NO Does the child: pronounce most speech sounds correctly YES NO participate in and understand conversations use common words and start to put even in the presence of background noise words together recognize familiar signs (e.g., stop sign) enjoy listening to storybooks make up rhymes point to body parts or pictures in a hear and understand most of what is said at book when asked home and school look at your face when talking to you listen to and retell a story and ask and answer questions about a story