



SURREY EARLY SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Bright*futures*
for Children

Types of Service

Initial Consultation

During this initial meeting with a family, the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) observes the child and discusses the parents' concerns. Some strategies for helping promote the child's communication development are demonstrated. The SLP will also work with the family to decide on an appropriate action plan. This may include a home program, educational workshops for the parents, a formal speech and language assessment and a set of weekly/bi-weekly individual or small group sessions. The SLP may also discuss appropriate referrals to other agencies and programs.

Individual/Small Group Session Blocks

Individual/Small group sessions may be provided for a set block of time on a weekly/bi-weekly basis. Blocks typically range from 8 to 12 weeks and are usually offered in the fall, winter, and spring. The SLP and the parents set specific speech and language therapy goals. During sessions, desired speech and/or language targets are modeled for the child(ren). Parents learn what and how to model for their child. In addition, each session provides opportunity for observing a child's learning style, evaluating progress, and identifying further strengths and concerns.

Summer Programs

During the summer, group programs may be offered. Children are grouped according to their communication abilities and needs. These groups provide intensive modeling, peer interaction and parent networking.

Therapy Rest Block

After a block of therapy, your SLP may recommend a block of rest. Research shows that this break from treatment is often extremely beneficial to a child's learning. A block of rest allows the child to consolidate their learning and apply it to their everyday life. It also allows the SLP to see other children in need of direct service.

Monitor/Follow-up Consultation

If the child is not attending weekly/bi-weekly sessions, the SLP may provide follow-up consultations and monitor the child's development. The SLP and the parents set specific speech and language goals and then the parents are trained to carry out activities at home. When a family is implementing home suggestions, it is important for the SLP to monitor the child's progress.

Home Program

Together the parents and SLP select a developmentally appropriate speech or language goal. To achieve the goal, it will be broken into small steps with specific activities to be carried out by the parents at home. The SLP will help train the parents, so that they can work with their child. The family will then return to the Centre for program review and support.

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Home Visits

The SLP sometimes visits children in their own home. This allows the SLP to demonstrate and guide the parent in the use of strategies during specific home routines. Being in the home lets the SLP learn more about the child's abilities and needs in their natural setting.

Formal Assessments

Children receive assessments of their speech and language skills to provide a diagnosis and/or develop a treatment plan and monitor their progress.

Parent Training/Education Workshops

Parent education is held throughout the year. Currently, one workshop is designed to help educate parents regarding speech sound development. Another workshop is designed to educate parents regarding language development. Both teach strategies to use in daily routines to help communication development. During the workshops, parents have a chance to meet other parents of children who have speech and language learning challenges. Workshops are open to parents of children who are on our waitlist and/or current caseloads, and invitations to these workshops are sent out based on SLP review of a child's file.

Speaking of Songs... Let's Talk! Parent-Child Songs and Rhymes Group

Child and parent attend a weekly group in which songs and rhymes are used to help promote language development. Familiar songs, chants and finger-plays will be adapted to meet the children's language levels and facilitate imitation, vocabulary development, turn taking, social interactions, etc. The group is open to children on our waitlist and/or current caseloads, and invitations to the group are sent out after an SLP has reviewed the child's file.

Preschool/Daycare Visit

The SLPs provide important information and training to preschool/daycare staff that have a child with communication concerns in their program. Observations at the child's preschool/daycare allow the SLP to see the child in another environment (with peers) where the child's communication strengths and needs may be different than at our Centre.

Case Conferences

The SLP will meet with the family and team members from other programs to establish and review the child's treatment plan.

Infant Development Program Consultation

Once a month, the SLPs accompany Infant Development Consultants on their home visits to children at risk for developmental delays. We provide suggestions/strategies for stimulating communication development. The SLP has the opportunity to recommend a referral for SLP services when needed. Doing joint visits with community service providers allows for an exchange of knowledge and expertise.

Community Workshops

The SLPs provide a variety of workshops to community service providers on topics such as helping enhance speech and language development, the relationship between play and language development, and adapting songs and stories to target specific communication goals.

Newsletter

At least once a year a newsletter is sent to all families and community service providers involved with our program. This newsletter provides support, information and practical home and preschool/daycare ideas to our readers.