

## Committed to Prevention

This 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](http://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

Children 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.



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# Speech, Language and Hearing Milestones

## Prevent, Protect, Act



[www.sac-oac.ca](http://www.sac-oac.ca)

## Find a professional near you

[www.communicationhealth.ca](http://www.communicationhealth.ca)

