



# Speech, Language, Hearing and Vision Services

Each school in the district has the services of a Speech Language Pathologist. In the fall every kindergarten child is given a hearing test and parents are notified of the results. The district audiologists follow up with any indicated concerns. Kindergarten students will also have a vision screening during the school year. The goal of the vision screening is to identify those students with possible vision concerns, communicate to the parents the need for further vision testing, and assist students in obtaining adequate medical care if warranted.

Children with possible delays in the areas of speech and/or language may be referred by parents or teachers to their school Speech Language Pathologist. Here are some questions for you to answer concerning your child's speech and language skills:

1. Can your child use language to relate a story or an experience?
2. Can your child follow a sequence of simple directions? (For example, "Go to your room, get your red shirt and bring it to me.")
3. Does your child understand basic concepts such as over, under, between, or around?
4. Is your child able to understand the words yesterday, summer, tonight, or lunchtime?
5. Can a stranger understand about 90% of what your child says? (In kindergarten children may still be learning the th, r, s, and l sounds, and it may be normal to hear "I thaw da wabbit," instead of "I saw the rabbit.")
6. Can your child speak smoothly without excessive repetitions or revisions? (If you feel that his/her speech is extremely broken up by repetitions this may warrant a referral.)
7. Does your child's voice always sound hoarse? Does he/she speak as though he/she always has a cold?

If your answers to questions 1-6 are "no", or you answered "yes" to number 7, there may be a concern. Kindergarten-aged students should be using complex sentences that are grammatically correct. His/her expression may not be complex, but it should not contain ongoing omissions such as "dog barking at girl" or substitutions such as "him jump on sidewalk."

If you are concerned about your child's speech and/or language skills, please contact the Speech Language Pathologist at your school.