



Lanark County Language Development Program



What is it?

The Language Development Program is part of Lanark Community Programs, and has been providing service in Lanark County since 1979. The main focus of this program is to create environments in which communication is encouraged and where communication skills can grow. We support young children or adults, their families and others involved with the individual.

Who are we?

All of our services are provided by Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) registered with the College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists of Ontario (CASLPO).

The Language Development Program is a partner agency with The Language Express - Preschool Speech and Language Services System of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville. All initial calls regarding a child go to The Language Express, who in turn forward the call to the most appropriate organization: Lanark Community Programs, Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital or Carleton Place District Memorial Hospital.



Group intervention is sometimes available and

Who are the children and families we serve?

The Language Development Program provides service to families with children between the ages of two to five and adults over the age of 18, who are at risk of developing or have a developmental delay.

What do we do?

For Children with Communication Difficulties

Our initial consultation involves **screening and assessment** in the child's home. We observe the interaction between the child and family members and assess the child's strengths and needs. We learn of the family's expectations and goals regarding communication. We design a personalized program meant to improve communication skills, and make referrals to other programs where necessary. The program may include individual or group intervention, and/or consultation with child care providers or teachers.

Individual intervention involves visiting the family on a regular basis. We demonstrate and teach communication techniques to the parent or caregiver so they can use these techniques on a daily basis. The SLP may participate in whatever family activity is happening at the time of the visit (e.g. play or meal time) encouraging communication during that routine.

takes place in the community (e.g. day care settings or schools). Small groups of children gather regularly. These children have already practised communication skills individually and the group allows them to practise and learn from others. The group's focus varies depending on

the needs of the children. For example, one group might be for children who have difficulty interacting with peers.

Consultation involves collaborating with care providers or teachers and developing communication techniques for a specific child. These techniques are consistent with those being taught to the family during individual intervention.

On occasion **home programming** is offered where a specific program is designed that parents can follow. Parents are encouraged to call whenever they have questions.

For Adults with Communication Difficulties

We do an initial assessment, then provide home programming and consultation.

Workshops/Training

We offer different Hanen® training programs for parents, caregivers and teachers. Each program includes: interactive group sessions and individual consultation through videotaping and feedback. These programs are led by Hanen Certified SLPs. We also provide workshops on a variety of other communication topics when there is sufficient interest.

We offer mini sign language courses regularly and can often be spotted at local play groups and Baby Talks, answering questions and sharing information on speech and language development milestones.

Why do we do it?

Communication is the way we interact with the world. If a person has difficulty communicating then he/she is more isolated.

The Language Development Program teaches the child or adult and their caregivers/teachers new ways to interact and communicate with each other. It provides the children and adults with skills that enable them to participate more fully in the community. This increases their

independence and decreases their frustration and isolation.

Parents gain a sense of satisfaction from seeing the positive changes in their child because of their efforts. They also feel a sense of hope and empowerment.

What is the cost?

The services provided by the Language Development Program are absolutely **free**.

What about referrals?

Referrals are welcome from any individual or group, with parental consent.

To refer a **child** between the ages of 2-5 years, call:

1-613-283-2742
or
1-888-503-8885

To refer an **adult**, call:

1-613-257-7121 (x3382)
or
1-800-667-2617 (x3382)

Our address and fax number are:

Lanark Community Programs
30 Bennett Street
Carleton Place, Ontario
K7C 4J9

(613) 257-2675