

## Developmental Milestones & Red Flags

1 to 2 hour workshop

Do you know the major communication milestones for children birth through six years of age?

Did you know that in order to shift developmental trajectories, it is best to intervene by thirty months of age?

Is it right to tell a family that their child will “grow out” of the problem?

When should an early learning and care provider or teacher be concerned about a child’s communication abilities?

Is it a communication difficulty or a behaviour difficulty?

What is the best way to approach the topic with a family member?

What are the Red Flags for early development?

How does one get help?

This workshop will make clear the milestones and red flags for early development. Participants will consider the Nipissing Developmental Scales and the Ages and Stages Questionnaire as screening tools for communication development. Referral mechanisms will be discussed.



## The Early Learning and Care Provider’s Role in Supporting Communication Development

1 to 2 hour workshop

The development of strong language skills is one of the most important milestones for children, laying down the foundation for life-long learning. Language is not “taught”, it is “caught”. Children learn language through interaction with others in stimulating environments. Early learning and care providers and teachers are in ideal positions to support language learning. This workshop will explore key strategies for supporting communication development, from how to get a child who is not talking to send a message, to how to help advanced learners move one more step along their own developmental pathway.

## Hearing Loss in Children

1 hour workshop

The development of strong spoken language skills is dependent upon hearing the sounds of our speech. This workshop will explore the hearing mechanism, types of hearing loss, implications on speech and language development and supports available to those with hearing loss. Tips for supporting communication development in the classroom setting will be shared.



## Speech, Language and Literacy

## Professional Development Opportunities for ECE and Kindergarten Teachers



To book a PD event, contact Alison Morrison at SoundStart through Pathways Health Centre for Children  
1240 Murphy Road  
Sarnia, Ontario  
N7S 2Y6  
Phone: 519 542 3471 ext 297  
E-mail: amorrison@pathwayscentre.org  
www.soundstart.org  
www.pathwayscentre.org

**There is typically no cost associated with PD opportunities!**

## Sounds Like Speech

1 to 2 hour workshop

Children do not speak clearly from the moment they use their first words, but should be understandable to others 90% of the time by age three. Early learning and care providers and kindergarten teachers often interact with children who have difficulty speaking clearly. Do you have situations when a child in your care is frustrated when others do not understand his messages? At times, do you find that you have to simply smile and nod then begin a string of guessing games to figure out what he has said?

“Sounds Like Speech” will help you better understand speech production difficulties, and will support you in becoming a child’s best therapist. The following information will be explored:

- how the lips, tongue, jaw and teeth work together to form sounds,
- how and when speech sounds develop,
- common difficulties associated with speech disorders and delays,
- practical suggestions to help children speak more clearly.



## Literacy

### Don't Just read the book!

#### Book sharing strategies

1 to 2 hour workshop

Research shows that it is a good thing to listen to stories everyday, but did you know that subtle changes that caregivers make in their approach to story sharing can significantly increase a child’s reading readiness? This workshop will focus on dialogic reading and strategies to support fun, interactive book sharing with children.

### Making Print SING

#### Promoting print awareness & print practice

1 to 2 hour workshop

Helping children realize the significance of those black squiggles on a page is a key milestone in the early years. The importance of print concepts, print referencing and early writing will be discussed alongside practical print practice activities that will have teachers “ready to return” to the classroom.



### There's More to Reading than ABCs

#### Promoting phonological awareness

1 to 2 hour workshop

One of the best predictors of reading success is a child’s ability to play with the sounds of our language. This workshop will focus on ways to embed rhyming, segmenting, blending, sound identifying and sound manipulating into everyday early learning environments.



## Learning Language and Loving It

Learning Language and Loving It™ is a training opportunity for Early Childhood Educators/ Teachers developed by the Hanen Centre®. The program introduces teachers to information and strategies that will help them provide a rich and inclusive language learning environment for young children birth through kindergarten age. The program uses a combination of 8 evening group sessions (2½ hours each) and 4 to 6 individual video feedback sessions to assist educators in advancing their skills. Videotaping and feedback sessions require that each participant be videotaped for approximately 5 minutes during interactions with the children in their care. A 30-minute video feedback session takes place directly following the videotaping.

## Teacher Talk™ Training Series

3 workshops (6 hours each)

Teacher Talk™ is a training series based on Learning Language and Loving It™. Each session has a different focus, “Encouraging Language Development in Early Childhood Settings”, “Let Language Lead the Way to Literacy”, and “Fostering Peer Interaction in Early Childhood Settings”. There is no video feedback in this program. Costs for this training involve the costs of the workbooks (\$16/book or \$40/series).