

Why is your child being referred for consultation support?

The school team wants to learn more about resources/strategies they can use in the classroom to promote the development of your child's language and/or communication skills.

This brochure is designed to help parent(s)/guardian(s) understand speech-language consultation support in the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board.

For more information, please contact your child's school principal or SERT.



www.kprschools.ca
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Speech and Language Consultation

A Guide for Parents/Guardians



Please read this guide **BEFORE** signing an accompanying consent form.

What is involved in a speech-language consultation?

1. After you give your consent, the speech-language pathologist (SLP) will begin to collect information from you, your child and classroom staff. This may be accomplished by reviewing your child's Ontario Student Record (OSR), by observing your child in the classroom and direct interactions. This information is used to gain insight into your child's language and communication skills, and may focus on:
 - ability to understand words and sentences,
 - ability to communicate and interact with others,
 - ability to use augmentative and alternative communication methods for students whose speech does not meet their daily communication needs, and
 - literacy skills (reading and writing).
2. If necessary, we may ask you for written permission to contact other professionals who have been involved with your child.
3. The SLP will review and interpret the information about your child and provide guidance to school staff about next steps for communication and language development. Classroom visits by the SLP and/or communicative disorders assistant (CDA), who works under supervision of the SLP, may be provided to model strategies and support recommendations.
4. You may be contacted by the SLP during the consultation process to review pertinent information. If a consultation report is required, it will be generated before the end of the school year and you will receive a copy. Additional copies will be kept in your child's OSR and the SLP's electronic file. The report will be kept on file until your child's 31st birthday unless you request in writing, to have the report removed. Only the principal can remove it from the OSR.

Who will complete the consultation?

The consultation will be completed by a SLP who is employed by the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR). All of our SLPs are registered with the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario.

Why is your permission needed?

As regulated health professionals and KPR employees, SLPs must comply with health care laws. These include:

- Regulated Health Professions Act,
- Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Act,
- The Personal Health Information Protection Act, and
- The Health Care Consent Act.

Ontario law states that a parent(s)/guardian(s) with legal decision-making responsibility must give "informed consent" for any services provided by the SLP before service begins. "Informed consent" means that you must understand what services we will be offering, including the potential benefits, risks, and any alternative courses of action.

For students under the age of 18, the Education Act requires parent(s)/guardian(s) to give consent for our services.

If there is anything you do not understand or if you have any questions, please contact your child's principal before signing the consent form.

Your consent would be valid for 12 months. You may withdraw your consent for speech-language services at any time by contacting the school principal or the SLP involved.

What are the benefits of a speech-language consultation?

The benefits include:

- learning more about your child's communication strengths, challenges, and needs,
- obtaining programming suggestions for the school, to help improve your child's communication skills and learning potential,
- obtaining recommendations for specialized equipment to assist your child at school, and
- learning about other resources or services available.

What are the risks?

A SLP may identify some challenging areas for your child that you did not expect. In most cases, you may already be aware of some of these challenges. Although new information may be surprising initially, this process may lead to the support your child needs and help your child in the long run.

Are there other ways to get communication assistance for your child?

If you wish, you can hire a private SLP. Please note that you will be responsible for any costs involved. Some workplace benefit packages may provide coverage.

If you receive private SLP support, we recommend that you share this information with your child's school special education resource teacher (SERT) and SLP.

Contacts:

The following organizations also have information of interest:

College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO)
1-800-993-9459 www.caslpo.com

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC-OAC)
1-800-259-8519 www.sac-oac.ca

