

Why is your child being assessed?

You or school staff may be concerned with how your child's speech is developing. For example, your child may sound like they are stuttering or having difficulty pronouncing certain words or sounds clearly.



This brochure is designed to help parent(s)/guardian(s) understand speech assessments 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 Assessments

A Guide for Parents/Guardians



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

What is involved in a speech assessment?

This assessment is the required first step to see if your child qualifies for free, publicly funded speech therapy. Once you provide your consent, the speech-language pathologist (SLP) will begin gathering information about your child's speech development. To do this, we use the background information form that has been included for you to fill out, and we meet directly with your child to complete a brief assessment.

This information helps us measure your child's speech skills in three main areas:

- **Articulation:** How clearly your child pronounces specific speech sounds and words.
- **Voice:** The overall quality, loudness, and pitch of your child's voice.
- **Fluency (Stuttering):** Smoothness of speech, including any repetition of sounds or words, or pauses while speaking.

What happens after the assessment?

The SLP will review all the information gathered from your forms and the assessment and write a brief summary report outlining the eligibility outcome and next steps.

Next steps and referrals

- **If your child meets the criteria:** If your child meets the specific requirements outlined by the children's treatment centre, the SLP will complete and submit the referral for speech therapy. The treatment centre will then contact you directly about next steps.
- **If your child does not meet the criteria:** If your child does not meet the strict guidelines set by the treatment centre at this time, a referral cannot be made.

Privacy and records

- **Your Copy:** You will receive a copy of the assessment summary report via secure, encrypted email.
- **School and Board Records:** A copy will be placed in your child's OSR at the school, and another will be kept securely in the SLP's electronic clinical file. By law, the school board must store these files securely until your child's 31st birthday.
- **Managing the OSR:** Once the report is placed in the OSR, it becomes part of that record. Only the school principal can remove it, and they will only do so if you submit a formal request in writing.



Who will complete the assessment?

The assessment 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 special education resource teacher (SERT) before signing the consent form.

You may withdraw your consent for speech-language services at any time by contacting the SLP involved.

What are the benefits of a speech assessment?

If eligible, your child may receive services through your local children's treatment centre (Grandview Kids or Five Counties Children's Centre).

The SLP may refer you to other sources of help.

What are the risks?

Your child will miss some class time during the testing. A speech assessment 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 this new information may be surprising for you initially, a speech assessment can lead to the support your child needs.

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

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

If you receive a private assessment, we recommend that you share the results with your child's school.

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

