

Why is your child being referred to speech – language services for a language assessment?

The school team would like to obtain additional information about your child's language development through assessment. This will help staff to better understand what strategies and resources can be used to help your child at school.



This brochure is designed to help parent(s)/guardian(s) understand what is involved when receiving a language assessment in the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board.

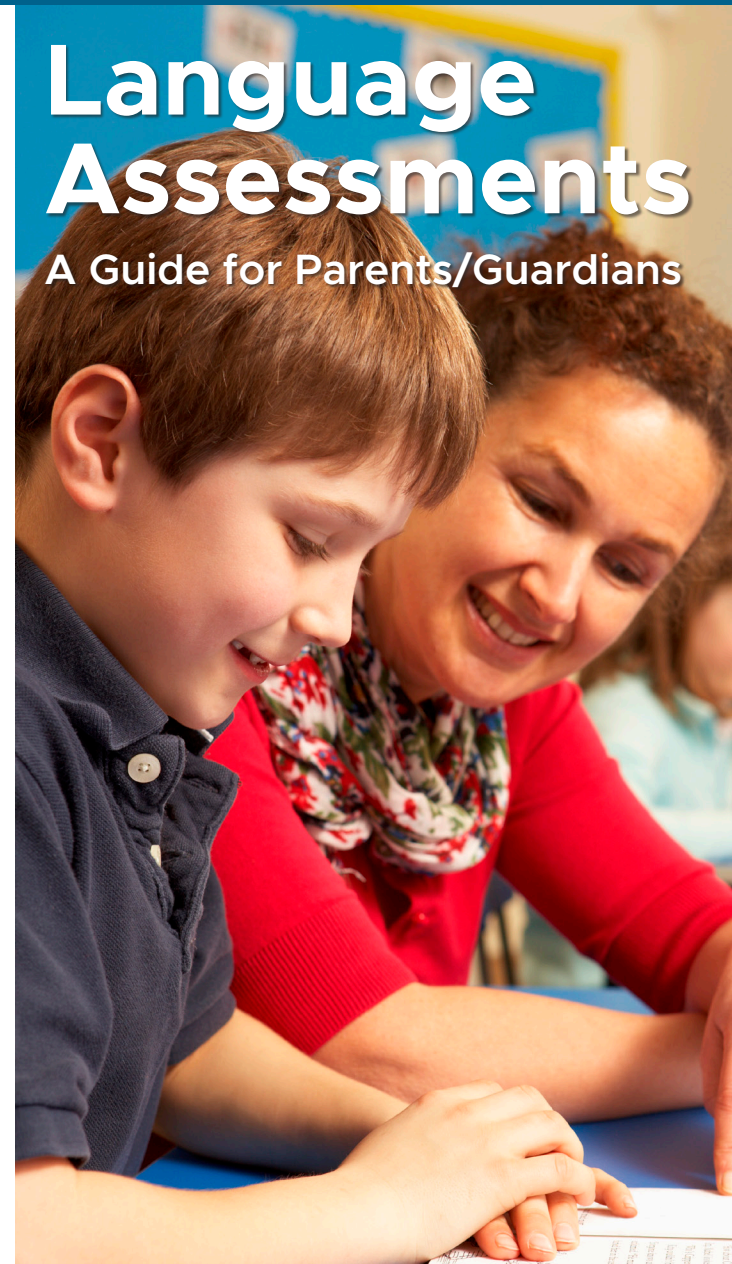
For more information, please contact your child's school principal or SERT.



www.kprschools.ca
SEPTEMBER 2026

Language Assessments

A Guide for Parents/Guardians



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

What is involved in a language assessment?

1. After you give your consent, the speech-language pathologist (SLP) will begin to collect information from you, your child, and school staff. This may be accomplished by consulting with your child's school team and/or reviewing your child's Ontario Student Record (OSR).
2. The SLP will also work directly with your child to complete standardized assessments in the following areas as deemed appropriate:
 - vocabulary: the understanding and use of specific words,
 - receptive language: the understanding of spoken language,
 - expressive language: the ability to convey one's thoughts, needs, and wants with others, and
 - written language: text-based language skills, including phonological awareness, decoding/encoding, reading comprehension, and writing.
3. Additional information may be collected by observing your child in the classroom and direct informal interactions.
4. The SLP may make recommendations for technology and software to be accessed through Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) that will be assigned to your child following the completion of a successful trial.
5. You will be contacted by the school's special education resource teacher (SERT) to schedule a meeting to review the language assessment results and recommendations.
 - You will receive a copy of the assessment report via secure, encrypted email.
 - 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.
 - 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 language 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 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 language assessment?

This includes:

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

What are the risks?

Your child will miss some class time during the testing. The 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 support for your child's needs and can help your child in the long run.

Are there other ways to get 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