

Speech and Language Program in Coquitlam School District

The Speech and Language Program is designed to support students in acquiring the speech and language skills necessary to achieve their educational goals and become effective communicators at home and in the community.

This is accomplished through a range of services including: screening, consultation, assessment, intervention, presentations, and material support.

The principle of early intervention is applied whenever possible.

What is a communication problem?

A student with a communication problem has ongoing difficulty in the understanding and use of spoken or written language.

Specific problems include:

- Language
- Articulation
- Voice
- Fluency

Language

- Weak vocabulary
- Inadequate grammar
- Inappropriate social use of language
- Inability to use speech for communication (augmentative communication users)

Articulation

- Speech sound production difficulties
- Typical errors include sound substitutions, omissions, distortions or sequencing difficulties

Voice

- Abnormal pitch, loudness, quality (e.g., nasality) or intonation
- Student must be seen by an ENT prior to any intervention

Fluency

- Disorders are commonly called 'stuttering, stammering, and cluttering'
- Difficulties include: sound, word or phrase repetitions; interjections (e.g., um) and blocks (i.e., struggled periods of silence)
- Speech rate and rhythm may be affected

How does a communication problem affect a child in school?

- Difficulties with academic skills (e.g., reading, writing, math)
- Problems in making friends and getting along with teachers
- Difficulties in expressing feelings and understanding social situations
- Failure to follow directions or get information from instruction
- Experience frustration when not understood

Who can help a student with communication problems?

- Parents play a primary role through natural conversations
- Teachers meet the needs of communication development through the school curriculum
- School peers provide the motivation and role models for communication
- Speech-Language Pathologists assist students and also provide support to parents and teachers

Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist

Students

- Assess areas of strength and need
- Provide intervention and/or consultation to support the areas of need
- Suggest ways to improve academic performance and skills
- Teach concepts and skills prior to applying them
- Help develop social language skills

Parents

- Provide specific information about the communication development of their child
- Suggest ways to encourage effective communication skills at home
- Provide resources and information about outside agencies that may also support the child

Teachers

- Assess student areas of communication strengths and needs
- Assist in the provision and adaptation of learning materials
- Collaborate to plan programs

Administrators

- Work with the School-Based Team to assist in developing programs
- Help develop a school support system (e.g., peer tutors, parent volunteers) to assist in communication development
- Promote inservice for staff on communication problems

How is a child referred to a Speech-Language Pathologist?

- Referrals are made through the School-Based Team by parents, teachers, and/or other professional agencies by contacting the chair of the School-Based Team
- Any concerns may be discussed with the principal, classroom teacher, or school Speech-Language Pathologist

Additional Services Available

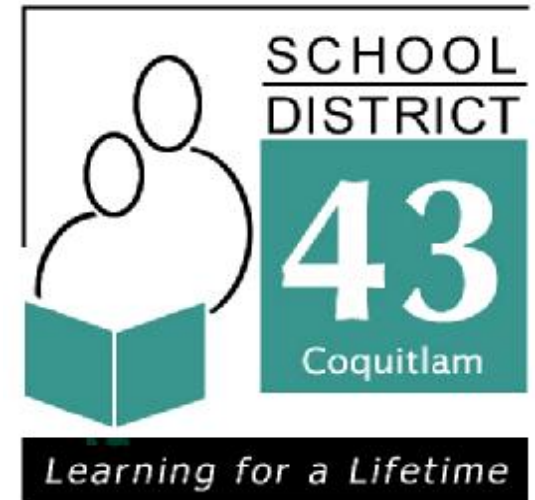
- District Language Program
- Middle/High School Program
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Support
- Aboriginal Education Support

For further information, please contact:

Student Services
Speech-Language Program
Winslow Centre
604-937-6386



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SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

At-a-Glance

*A Resource for Schools,
Parents, and Students*

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