



Changing the  
trajectory of children's  
mental health.

## What to expect from the Preschool Speech and Language Program at the George Hull Centre

Children learn best through the interactions that occur in everyday life and through real life situations. Our program will teach you what you can do in your daily interactions and routines to support the development of your child's communication skills. Our programs are designed to support you, the caregiver, because you are your child's first teacher, and you know your child best. **Our goal is always to help you and your family feel empowered to support your child's speech and language needs at home and in your day-to-day lives.**

Speech-Language Pathologists provide an assessment of your child's understanding and use of language skills and work with you to develop an intervention plan that may include a home program, parent/caregiver training and/or group and individual therapy. Services are provided by speech-language pathologists, communicative disorders assistants and early childhood educators.

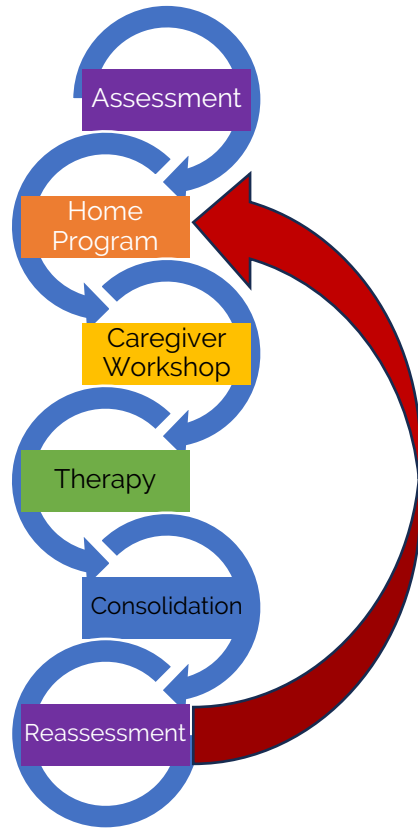
We can also help connect with you with any other George Hull programs and supports you might benefit from.

### Surrey Place

Surrey Place Centre coordinates the Preschool Speech and Language program in the City of Toronto. To sign up, you must register with [Surrey Place](#). Once we receive your registration, we will contact you as soon as an appointment becomes available. Your first appointment in the program will be an initial assessment with a speech-language pathologist (SLP). The goal of the assessment is to get to know your child and your family, understand your concerns, assess your child's communication skills, and make a plan with you.

Depending on the outcomes of the assessment and your child and family's needs, intervention options may involve the following:

# Preschool Speech and Language Service Cycle



Assessment (virtual)	The assessment is a chance for your clinician to get to know you and your child in an environment in which your child is most comfortable. After this appointment, your clinician will determine how we can best support you, provide you with strategies you can use at home to support your child and connect you with community programs and resources.
Home Program	<p>If ongoing support is recommended, you may need to wait. While you are waiting, you will be given strategies and activities you can complete at home with your child to support their communication skills while you wait for therapy.</p> <p>After your re-assessment, if more therapy is recommended, you will be provided with a new program of strategies and activities you can use to support your child while you wait for your next therapy sessions.</p>
Caregiver Workshop (virtual)	<p>Your clinician may recommend that you attend an online workshop for parents and caregivers while waiting for therapy. This workshop will provide you with more specific strategies that you can use to help your child.</p> <p>Depending on your child's needs, we may recommend an additional, advanced level workshop for you to learn ongoing strategies you can use to support your child's communication skills while waiting for therapy.</p>
Therapy (Virtual)	Therapy will take virtually. Depending on your child's age and needs, therapy may be a parent coaching program, or individual or in a small group treatment. In all of these options, a therapist will work with you and your child to teach you ways you can support your child's communication development. Typically, therapy sessions occur weekly for a set number of sessions.
Consolidation Period	Once your sessions are complete, you will continue to work with your child on the strategies learned in therapy until you return for a re-assessment. The consolidation period is typically four to eight months.
Re- assessment	Following your consolidation period, you will be invited back for a re-assessment. This appt could be in person, over video or telephone, depending on your child's age and specific needs. This appointment will help your clinician determine what kind of ongoing support is recommended. If no concerns are identified or you're no longer interested in our services, we will close your child's file.



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## Transition to School

We work with children until they start Junior Kindergarten. As your child approaches school entry your SLP will ask where your child will be going to school and whether you'd like us to help initiate or transition speech and language support to your child's school board support services. We can provide you with a Transition to School report that you can share with the school as you like, or with your permission, we can send it to the school board speech-language pathology department for you. Your SLP will talk to you about this in detail the year your child will be eligible to start kindergarten. To access therapy with us, you must refer your child before March 31<sup>st</sup> of the year they are eligible to start kindergarten.

## What can I do to help my child's speech and language development while I'm waiting for service?

Bring your child to an EarlyON Centre in the community! At each location specially trained staff run many drop-in and registered programs to support you and your child's development. Our program visits many EarlyON locations in West Toronto/Etobicoke so you can ask if a speech-language pathologist is visiting soon.

The George Hull Centre has multiple EarlyON locations in north and central Etobicoke. To see our program times and locations, [click here](#). You can [click here](#) to find other EarlyON Centre programs near you.

The [Toronto Public Library](#) offers many great programs, including Family Time, Toddler Time and Reading programs. You can search the available programs by age and by library branch.

## Learn More – On-Line Resources

[York Region Preschool Speech and Language](#), in partnership with other early years professionals, has developed several helpful resources including e-learning modules on a range of topics.

## For More Information

For further information about the George Hull Preschool Speech and Language Program, please contact Talia Leszcz, Interim Program Manager, at 416-622-8833 extension 581 or at [tleszcz@georgehull.on.ca](mailto:tleszcz@georgehull.on.ca)

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