

Communication Clinic

For infants and toddlers

What is a communication clinic?

A communication clinic is an opportunity for you and your child to meet with the program Speech-Language Pathologist along with your Infant-Parent Therapist. Since you are the most important person in your child's life, the Speech-Language Pathologist will give you individualized information to help you help your own child. The clinic can take place in your home, the community, or at the Chedoke site of McMaster Children's Hospital.

A communication clinic will give you a chance to ask specific questions about your child's communication.

What will I learn from the communication clinic?

Through talking with you and observing you and your child, the Speech-Language Pathologist will answer your questions about your child's communication. You will also get a written report on what the Speech-Language Pathologist observed about your child and what you can do.

The communication clinic will give you information about:

- your child's present ways of communicating with you
- how to encourage your child's understanding of words
- how to encourage your child's verbal and non-verbal communication
- ideas to reduce your child's frustration caused by communication issues
- possible goals for your Family Service Plan
- other services that may be helpful for you and your child
- progress or gains from a previous clinic, if applicable
- community resources, as appropriate

What are the disadvantages of attending the clinic?

- As it is not a formal assessment, you will not get specific assessment information.
- You may have to take time off work for the clinic because appointments take place during business hours.
- Although information about your child and family is held in confidence, you may feel a loss of privacy when answering questions.
- Discussing your child's development and needs may be painful.
- You may find the suggestions disappointing and/or unexpected, or you may not agree with the suggestions.
- Despite the input and your effort, your child may not improve his or her communication skills as quickly as you would like.

**You can decide if you want to attend a communication clinic, or not.
Your decision will not affect the services you are receiving.**

**For information about communication clinics,
ask your Infant-Parent Therapist.**

If you have questions about your child's development, you may talk with:

- your Infant-Parent Therapist
- another caregiver from the McMaster Children's Hospital, such as your Developmental Pediatrician
- your family doctor
- your child's teacher or caregiver

Other communication services:

- parent/family based communication programs recommended by the Speech-Language Pathologist