

THE VOICE



"Happy Earth Day"

Housekeeping

1. Pro-D Day, no school: Thursday, May 19th
2. Victoria Day, no school: Friday, May 20th and Monday May 23rd
3. Spirit Day: Wednesday, May 25th
4. Music To Our Ears Event, June 2 (see page 7 for details)



A Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Family, Friends, and Staff,

Happy Speech and Hearing Month! That's right, May is Speech and Hearing Month and highlights the importance of hearing testing and overall communication health. It is an important time to talk about hearing health, because as we know, the ability to speak, hear, and be heard is vital to our every day lives.

Babies born in BC have their hearing screened at birth with further audiological assessment for babies who do not pass the screening test. This year we have seen a number children who have been diagnosed with hearing loss at the age of three. Some of these children were screened at birth and some are new to Canada. Undiagnosed hearing loss can affect speech and language development as well as creating cognitive strain. A lack of auditory access can also lead to social isolation.

Children who are experiencing hearing loss need access to sound, such as hearing aids or other devices, appropriate intervention services and support. This is particularly important in early childhood, with the opportunity for listening and language development being most intense in the first three years of life.

Some indicators that a child may have hearing loss include:

- Delayed speech and language development
- Children who seem inattentive
- 'Selective' listening
- Inability to follow verbal directions

Parents and caregivers can contact their family doctor, their local community audiology clinic or our Centre to arrange for a hearing test. Please use this time to talk with other parents and caregivers and share information about hearing health. When in doubt, please talk to your child's teacher, support staff, or Centre specialists to ask questions. We are always "hear" to help and serve as a source of reliable information!



Dawn McKenna
Executive Director



Morning Music Returns!

by: Sarah Chodos

The excitement and enthusiasm within the Centre was palpable the week of April 25th because with the lifting of some COVID restrictions, we have finally been able to start Morning Music again! Many of you are probably wondering, “But what is Morning Music?”.

Morning Music is an opportunity for all of the students and teachers to come together in the gym, first thing in the morning to sing, dance and play. It’s such a wonderful way to start the day. Sometimes we sing songs together, sometimes we sing AND dance, sometimes we play musical instruments, sometimes we listen to stories, sometimes we play games and sometimes we take turns performing a song while others get to be a part of the audience. Morning Music might be a bit different every day but you can be sure that there will always be opportunities to listen, speak, sing and have fun!

How does music benefit a child’s development?

Participating in music activities helps children to:

- **develop language** – “acoustic highlighting” and “motherese” are both listening and spoken language strategies that utilize a singsong voice to emphasize specific language and help young children listen to language in the same way that singing/music does. The repetitive patterns of songs facilitate the learning and recall of new words (vocabulary). Rhythm in music is integral when developing speech and language and plays an important role in reading comprehension.



Morning Music Returns! continued...

- **develop social skills**- music provides opportunities to practice interacting with each other and use important pragmatic skills like greeting, looking at a person when they are speaking, sharing materials, following a routine, taking turns etc., in a structured but fun environment.
- **build confidence** – when a child feels successful and proud of what he/she can accomplish during this time together it gives them the self-belief and the confidence boost that they need to thrive in other areas
- **inspire creativity and imagination** – music encourages children to use their imagination to create new movements, tunes, and lyrics to perform and play
- **express themselves** – music, and singing allow children to show how they are feeling or what they've learned. Some children might find it easier to use an instrument or song rather than their language to show that they are happy, mad or sad, or to demonstrate knowledge of a new concept or theme
- **reinforce concepts taught** – we use singing daily while learning new themes, concepts and language. Songs help children learn and remember new concepts, like the weather, nursery rhymes, holidays, days of the week, months of the year, and so much more!

We will be having morning music twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:05-9:20 until the end of the year.



Did You Hear?

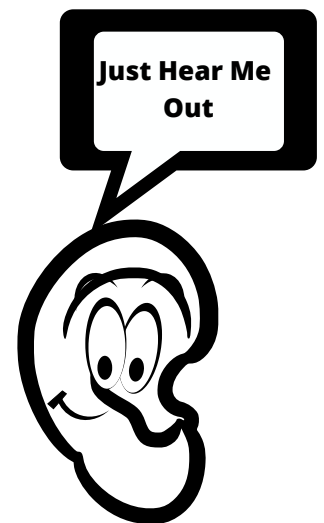
Excerpt from Auditory Verbal Therapy Handout by: Stacy Crouse

Acoustic Highlighting

Acoustic Highlighting Is making the acoustic properties of a sound, word, or phrase easier for a child to hear. Acoustic Highlighting can be used to target articulation sounds, vocabulary, grammar, key words in a direction, or differences between words and phrases.

How is This Done?

- **Change the loudness:** Make part of the message slightly louder either by speaking louder or moving closer to the individuals hearing device. For voiceless consonants you can whisper the word to make the voiceless target sound more audible.
 - E.g. when working on on "z" sounds in the word prize move closer to the child's better hearing ear when modeling the sound.
- **Increase the intonation in your voice:** Use a different pitch.
 - E.g. When highlighting the future tense verb in a sentence "I WILL go to the store tomorrow" say the word "will" in a higher pitch.
- **Decrease your speaking rate:** Say the crux of the message slower for emphasis. It could be a single sound, or a whole word or phrase.
 - E.g. When giving a direction with two key elements such as "The candy goes in the bag" slow your speech on the words candy and bag.
- **Add a pause:** Add a short pause before the important word.
 - E.g. If highlighting possessive pronouns use a short pause in the sentence "I am going to...her house."
- **Sing highlighted words:** Use a sing song voice for the words and phrases you want to emphasize.
 - E.g. When highlighting adjectives use a sing song voice when saying the description words "It's a (cold 🎵) and (rainy 🎵) day."





LANGUAGE AND LITERACY SKILLS

Speech-language pathologists can help.

Children need to learn to read **and read to learn.**

Literacy – the ability to read and write – enables us to communicate with others and learn about our world. To develop literacy skills, children first need **speech and language skills.**

Children with speech or language disorders are more likely to have difficulties with literacy. Follow your child’s literacy development by looking out for these milestones:

Help your child develop strong literacy skills.



Children start to develop literacy skills by looking at words in their environment, including in books, on signs or in logos. Research has shown that one of the best ways you can promote literacy in your child is by **reading together.**

Children with language impairments are

4 to 5

TIMES MORE LIKELY to have reading difficulties while in school.



Up to **30%** of children with speech disorders also have a reading disability.

- 1 YEAR OF AGE:** shows an interest in picture books.
- 2 YEARS OF AGE:** knows to hold books the right way up and turns the pages.
- 3 YEARS OF AGE:** understands that printed words have a function (on menus, lists, signs, etc.).
- 4 YEARS OF AGE:** can think of simple rhymes (e.g., toy and boy).
- 5 YEARS OF AGE:** knows all letters of the alphabet.

Speech-language pathologists can help your child learn to read and write.

Recent research indicates that reading difficulties are primarily **language-based.** Speech-language pathologists can help children who are at risk of developing reading disorders through early identification and intervention. They can also offer treatment programs to children who experience reading difficulties.



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Communicating care

Find a speech-language pathologist near you at
www.communicationhealth.ca

If you think your child may have a reading disorder, consult a speech-language pathologist.



Music To Our Ears Event!



[Buy Tickets](#) 

We are so excited to announce on June 2nd we will be hosting our first in-person fundraising event in over **TWO** years!

Get your tickets to MUSIC TO OUR EARS in support of CHSC! The event will feature a silent auction, Music BINGO, refreshments, and so much more!

- **When:** Thursday June 2
- **Where:** Our Gym
- **Time:** 6:00 PM

We are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping out you can contact our Marketing & Development Officer Elysha via email at ecohen@childrenshearing.ca

SEE YOU AT THE PARTY!




Speech-Language & Audiology Canada Kids Contest!

Each year, SAC holds a contest to encourage young people to share their experiences of working with communication health professionals. The winning entry in each category will receive a \$100 Chapters/Indigo gift card!

Ages 5 & Under

Speech Hearing MONTH KIDS' CONTEST CATEGORY: 5 YEARS AND UNDER www.speechandhearing.ca

Help Simon the Owl celebrate Speech and Hearing Month!



Colour Simon and submit your entry to win a \$100 gift card.

SAC member/associate name _____ My name _____
 Phone number _____ Email _____ My age _____

Disclaimer: Contest prize. This contest form is for children aged 5 to 11 years at the time of contest entry. We encourage SAC members and associates to distribute contest info. We will award one \$100 gift card redeemable at Chapters/Indigo for the best entry in each of the three contest groups: 5 years and under, 6-8 years and 9-11 years. Submissions must be sent to SAC by June 1, 2022 by email (pub@hsc.nrc.ca). All entries become permanent property of SAC.

Ages 6 to 11

Speech Hearing MONTH KIDS' CONTEST CATEGORIES: 6-8 YEARS AND 9-11 YEARS www.speechandhearing.ca

What is your favourite part of visiting your speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or communication health assistant?

Write or draw your entry and you could win a \$100 gift card.

SAC member/associate name _____ My name _____
 Phone number _____ Email _____ My age _____

Disclaimer: Contest prize. This contest form is for children aged 6 to 11 years at the time of contest entry. We encourage SAC members and associates to distribute contest info. We will award one \$100 gift card redeemable at Chapters/Indigo for the best entry in each of the three contest groups: 5 years and under, 6-8 years and 9-11 years. Submissions must be sent to SAC by June 1, 2022 by email (pub@hsc.nrc.ca). All entries become permanent property of SAC.

Visit the [SAC Kids Hub](#) for more details and more FUN activities!

