



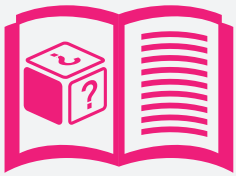
# LANGUAGE AND LITERACY SKILLS

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**.

## 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**.

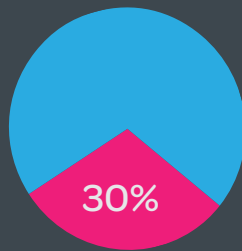
Children with speech or language disorders are more likely to have difficulties with literacy. Follow your child's literacy development by looking out for these milestones:

- 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.

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.

## 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](http://www.communicationhealth.ca)

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