

Parents:

First Words is Ottawa's Preschool Speech and Language Program.

This program helps Ottawa preschool children reach their full communication potential. First Words focuses on the prevention, early identification and treatment of speech and language problems.

Starting September 1st, First Words screening clinics will be by online appointment only. To access a screening clinic after September 1st, visit the website (www.firstwords.ca) to book an appointment. Online booking will be available starting on August 1st.

Need Services?

Are you worried about your child's speech and language development?

Bring your child (age 0 to eligibility for Senior Kindergarten) to a First Words Screening Clinic. They are free, don't require an appointment and are open to families who live in Ottawa. For more information, visit the website or:

- Call Ottawa Public Health at (613) 580-6744 extension 28020 and speak to a Public Health Nurse.
- If you are unable to attend any screening clinic, please call the First Words Intake office at (613) 737-7600 extension 2500 to discuss a self-referral.

Are you worried about your child's speech and language development AND have concerns about your child's overall development (i.e. play, socializing, motor skills)?

Call the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre at (613) 737-0871 to refer your child to the Early Childhood Program. Children aged 0 to school entry are eligible.

Are you worried about your child's hearing?

For concerns regarding hearing loss or otitis media (ear infections), contact your child's physician for a referral to an audiologist or CHEO Audiology department.