



Turtle River School Division - Administrative Procedure

Section D – Student Services

Speech and Language Assessment and Therapy

Speech and Language Assessment and Therapy

Turtle River School Division provides students with the services of a speech language pathologist who will provide assessment, therapy, and program planning support for students as they continue to develop their language skills.

Why do a Speech Language Assessment?

A speech language assessment is completed to identify any possible weaknesses in communication that may be affecting your child's performance in the classroom. A complete speech-language assessment helps the speech-language pathologist determine appropriate treatment goals (if necessary) and to provide strategies for the classroom and for you at home to help your child become a more efficient communicator.

How is a Speech-Language Assessment Initiated at a School?

Before a speech-language assessment can be completed, a speech-language referral form must be completed and signed by the school team, including the parents/guardians. Please take the time to discuss the concerns and ask what strategies have already taken place to help your child in the classroom. Remember, the speech-language assessment will not take place until the referral form is completed and signed.

What is Included in a Speech-Language Assessment?

Typically, a speech-language assessment will include an observation of your child in the classroom, consultations with the classroom and/or resource teachers, and non-invasive informal or formal testing of your child's communicative abilities. During the one-on-one testing, the child is engaged in conversation and asked to perform a series of speech-language related tasks. Overall, students typically enjoy the one-on-one sessions. Parent input may also be requested in order to assist with the assessment.-

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How Long Does the Assessment Take?

Depending on your child's attention span and persistence, the assessment can be completed over one or two sessions, ranging from 30 to 60 minutes. Time is also needed for classroom observations and consultations with teachers. Given that the speech-language pathologist works in several schools with a large ongoing caseload, a complete assessment may take up to a month to complete.

What Happens After the Assessment is Completed?

After testing is finished, a meeting is arranged to discuss testing results and recommendations with you and the school team. You will be contacted to arrange a time that will suit your schedule. If warranted, your child may be set up on a therapy program at school to address any identified concerns. Speech-language therapy is typically performed by an educational assistant under the direction of the speech-language pathologist. A formal report, which documents the testing results and any treatment planning, will be sent to the school and to you at a later date. If your child is placed on a speech-language therapy program, communication with you and the school team is maintained through regular progress reports and year-end reports. Please feel free to contact your speech-language pathologist at Turtle River School Division Office (204 835-2067) at any time if you have any questions or concerns regarding the speech-language assessment process.

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Speech Language Services Referral Procedures

Procedure:

1. If the classroom teacher, parent/guardian, or school resource teacher feels that a possible weakness in communication may be affecting the student’s performance, they should complete a Speech-Language Referral.
2. The classroom teacher should meet and discuss concerns with the parent or guardian and resource teacher in order to begin initiating a formal referral.
3. The classroom teacher and the resource teacher will then complete the [Speech-Language Services Referral Form](#).
4. The resource teacher will collect all school signatures and place a photocopy in the student’s file.
5. The completed referral form and information page explaining the assessment will be sent home for the parent/guardian to sign and return to the school/division.
6. Parents/guardians have two choices in returning the forms.
 - a. They can place them in a sealed envelope addressed to the Speech Language Pathologist and return to the school, or
 - b. They can directly mail the envelope addressed to the Speech Language Pathologist to the division office address below:

Turtle River School Division
Attention: Speech Language Pathologist
Box 309, 808 Burrows Ave.
McCreary, MB
R0J 1B0
7. Once the parents/guardians have signed off on the Speech Language Referral, the Speech Language Pathologist will complete an assessment and/or diagnosis as requested.
8. The Speech Language Pathologist will make recommendations for the next steps to take for this student (e.g. speech therapy, further assessment, recommendations, etc.) and a report regarding the assessment will be generated and shared with the parents/guardians and the school.

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Speech-Language Services- Referral Form/Student History

Student's Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Gender: _____ Referral Initiated By: _____

Physician: _____ Language Spoken in Home: _____

	Mother/Guardian	Father/Guardian	Agency/Guardian
Last Name			Agency Name
First Name			Case Worker Name
Address			
Town			
Postal Code			
Phone #			

Date and Results of School Vision Screening: _____

Date and Results of School Hearing Screening: _____

Reason for Referral

- Articulation/Phonology
- Cognitive Orientation (pre-language)
- Pragmatics (social language)
- Voice Production
- Hearing Aids/Listening Devices
- Phonological Awareness
- AAC Comprehension
- AAC Production
- Language Comprehension
- Language Production
- Fluency/Rate/Rhythm
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Please elaborate on these concerns: _____

Does this student experience other difficulties which influence his/her learning abilities (academic, behaviour, physical, cognitive, hearing, vision, etc.)?

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What are the student's strengths/skills? _____

What additional testing has been completed with this student? _____

What strategies or interventions have been tried to help improve this student's communication skills (i.e. modeling of appropriate sound production or word usage, language experience activities, resource assistance, etc.)? _____

What are your expectations from this referral?

- Assessment only to determine functional level
- Assessment with follow-up programming suggestions

What type of supports will the school and home commit if the student requires specific programming?

- Educational Assistant Time
- Consultation Time
- Regular Parent/Child Interactions at Home

Please list additional significant information, parent concerns, and/or comments.

Parent/Guardian

Classroom Teacher

Resource Teacher

Principal

Student Services Administrator

Date

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