

Early Language Services N.B.

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National Strategy on Early Literacy
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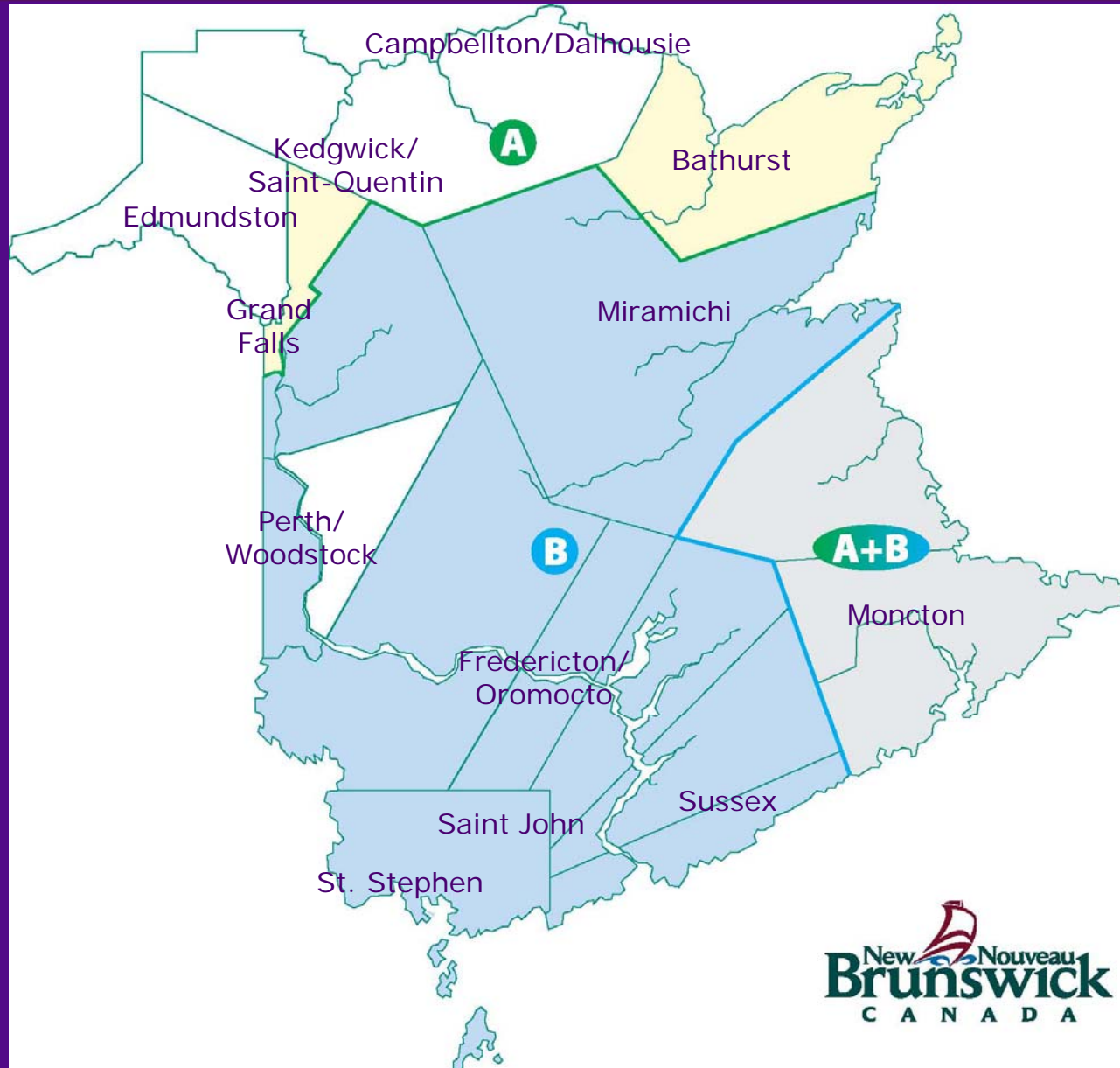
Talk With Me
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What is *Talk With Me* Early Language Services?

- Province wide program offering services in French & English
- Serves families and caregivers of children 0 - 5
- Mandate of ***promotion*** of healthy communication skills and ***prevention*** of communication delays
- Staffed by speech-language pathologists (23), rehabilitation assistants (17) & administrative assistants (12)
- Funded by the New Brunswick Department of Health

Where is Talk With Me?



Who can access ELS services?

- The service is available to **all** families and caregivers of children ages birth to 5
- No referral is necessary
- Programs are provided at no cost to the families (Provincially funded)
- Financial assistance with childcare & transportation is provided
- Programs are community based
- Programs offered in French or English



Why is language important?

- Age appropriate communication is the single best predictor of school performance
- Communication plays a primary role in overall development
- Disorders of communication are the most common developmental disability in children



How do we know this?

- Incidence of childhood language delay is 3-15%
- National studies demonstrate N.B. has higher prevalence of children with poor receptive vocabulary skills *(Willms, 2000)*
- Of these > 10%....
 - 25-90 % will go on to develop a reading difficulty
 - many will develop social, emotional and/or behavioural difficulties *(Tomblin, 2005)*



Why early intervention?

- The efficacy of early intervention has been well documented over the past 25 years.
- Literature suggests efficacy for best outcome dependant on 2 primary factors:
 - early identification (below 30 months)
 - parental involvement

(Rossetti, 2001)



Language and Literacy

- Did you know that...
 - language delayed children are more likely to have reading disorders (*Tomblin, 2005*)
 - reading difficulties are easier to prevent (<5) than remediate (>5) (*Justice, 2005*)
 - language and literacy development is reciprocal (*Justice, 2005*)

Language and Literacy (con't)

- Predictors of future success in reading:
 - oral language
 - phonological awareness
 - print knowledge
 - Better results in preschool & kindergarten literacy are seen with programs that are:
 - of good quality
 - intensive
 - systematic
- (Justice, 2005)*

Description of ELS Programs

- Information sessions for parents & caregivers
- Educational Sessions
 - Parents and caregivers with children
 - Early childhood educators in centers
- Consultation sessions with families or childcare educators
- Promotional events to the general public

Types of Information Sessions (Moncton)

- Communication Begins at Birth
- Communication – Let's Talk
- Raising Bilingual Children
- Language for Learning
- Sounds for Speaking
- Staff In-service (Lunch & Learn)



Communication – Let's Talk
Turning Points Youth Parenting Centre

Types of Educational Sessions (Moncton)

- Baby Massage
- Baby Talk
- Baby's 1st Words
- Tyke Talk
- Parent-Child Mother Goose Program[®]
- Talk, Read, Learn
- Parent & Tot Groups
- Customized Programming (Headstart)



Tyke Talk session
Rexton

Early Childcare Educator Sessions (Moncton)

- Childcare Centre Consultations
- Learning Language & Loving It – Hanen
- Dinner's On Us!
 - Varied topics on speech, language & literacy in preschool children



Learning Language & Loving It
The Hanen Centre

Consultation Sessions (Moncton)

- Parent-Child Consult
- Hearing Screening
- Sounds for Speaking
- School Kindergarten Readiness sessions



Parent-Child Consult
Riverside-Albert

Promotional Activities

- Daycare Week Celebrations
- Family Literacy Day
- PGI Literacy Fair
- May is Better Speech & Hearing Month
- Community Fairs
- Welcome Wagon Baby Shower



May Month Booth



Daycare Week Celebration



Accessibility

- Financial support to families or program participants for transportation and childcare
- Community partnerships sought out for capacity building and sustainability
- Programs held within existing community venues and programs
- Aim to impact a wide spectrum of the population from a single family to whole childcare centre
- Programs offered in both English & French



Community Partnerships

- Family Resource Centers
- Early Childhood Stimulation Programs
- First Nations Councils
- V.O.N. “Healthy Baby & Me”
- Youth Parenting Centre
- Headstart
- District School Boards
- Early Learning Canada
- Moncton Regional Learning Council
- Public Libraries
- Day Care Centers
- Autism Resource Centre
- Speech & Hearing Departments
- Parks & Recreation Department
- N.B. Housing
- Public Health

Unique Partnership Events

- Car seat clinic
- Soccer coaching
- Story tent
- Career fair
- Babysitting course
- Family studies course



Play dough letters at PGI Fair

Evaluation

- Post session evaluation
 - Feedback from participants
 - Program revisions
 - Program development
- Telephone surveys
- Descriptive anecdotal comments



Tyke Talk session
Rexton



Evidence?

- Anecdotal – parent or partner report
 - No need for therapy
 - Shorter time in therapy
 - Parents understand therapy strategies
 - Information helpful to subsequent children
- Quantitative – proposed
 - Focus groups – how has interaction with your child changed?
 - Comparative analysis of age of referral
 - New program feedback survey



Summary

All families benefit from information on how to **promote** language skills

We aim to **prevent** delays for at-risk children who:

- do not use words by 18 months
- do not combine words by 30 months
- are not understood by strangers or are not using 3-5 word sentences by 36 months

Parents **encouraged** to access the program to avoid communication delay

ELS facilitates referral to appropriate services

Questions



Contact us



Talk With Me

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