

# SPEECH AND LANGUAGE ASSESSMENTS



## Our Program

The Shepherd Centre carries out speech and language assessments at various 'checkpoints' in your child's life.

### Why do we need them?

- To ensure your child is progressing as expected.
- To provide information about your child's progress.
- To provide an opportunity to reflect on your family's journey; what you have achieved and what you can work on in the future.
- To provide valuable information to your therapist which will be used to help plan sessions and set appropriate goals.
- To check how your child is able to transfer the skills they have learnt at home and in sessions to other settings and activities.
- To identify areas of your child's speech and language development that can be targeted at home and in therapy.

*"We wouldn't have known what to do or how to develop our sons' speech, or how to bring him as far as he's gotten in the last three and a half years in the way The Shepherd Centre has."*



### When do they happen?

Assessments are completed around the following 'checkpoints':

- 6, 12 and 24 months after your child is fitted with their hearing device/s.
- 3rd, 4th and 5th birthday.
- When graduating from The Shepherd Centre (if an assessment has not been completed in the second half of that year).
- And on a yearly basis thereafter.

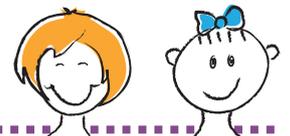
If you are concerned about your child's progress, additional assessments can happen upon request depending on when your child's last assessment was completed.

### What should I expect?

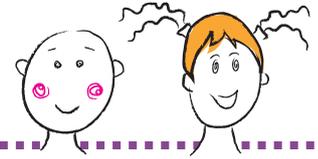
The assessments are play-based and toys and rewards are used to engage your child. They are standardised assessments which mean the questions can only be said in a certain way. If your child does not understand the wording used let the assessor know what they would understand and they will note it on the assessment form. Please try not to rephrase or repeat the questions during the assessment session.

For children under 3 years of age the assessment usually takes 1 hour. For children 3 years and older there are more assessments to complete so it usually takes a bit longer. The assessment session will last for as long as your child can maintain their attention and if all the assessments have not been completed another time will be booked with you to complete these.

*Please turn over...*



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## How do I prepare?

There are a number of things you can do to help prepare your child:

- Talk positively to them about the assessment and let them know they will be seeing a different person (tell them the person's name) in the week before the assessment.
- Make sure they are wearing their hearing device/s.
- Change the batteries of their hearing device/s on the morning of the assessment and make sure you have some spares in your bag.
- Let your therapist know if your child has had middle ear fluid/infections recently or has been unwell.

If you are feeling apprehensive or anxious about the assessment please talk to your therapist and/or the centre's Child & Family Counsellor.

## What happens after the assessment?

After the assessment is completed it will be scored and the results will be included in a progress report which will be written by your Listening & Spoken Language Specialist and given to you. One of The Shepherd Centre's Child & Family Counsellors may contact you following the assessment to discuss your experience. An Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting will be held after the assessment to set goals with your family. Your Listening & Spoken Language Specialist and Audiologist and Child and Family Counsellor will be involved in this meeting.

*"The Shepherd Centre has really been quite integral in giving us a son who loves to speak."*



## What assessments does The Shepherd Centre use?

The Shepherd Centre uses internationally recognised assessment tools to measure your child's spoken language and communication skills. These include:

### The Pre-school Language Scales – 4th Edition (PLS-4)

The PLS-4 is used at all 'checkpoints'. It is a standardised language assessment that looks at what your child understands (receptive language) as well as what your child says (expressive language). It uses both toys and a picture book to assess a range of receptive and expressive language skills.

### Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test – 4th Edition (PPVT-4)

The PPVT-4 is used from 3 years of age onwards. It is a standardised vocabulary assessment that looks at your child's understanding of words using a picture book. The assessor will say a word and your child then points to the picture that best illustrates the word. The words get more difficult as the test goes on.

### Goldman Fristoe Test of Articulation – 2nd Edition (GFTA-2)

The GFTA-2 is used from 3 years of age onwards. It is a standardised assessment that looks at your child's pronunciation of words. It looks at all single consonants (e.g. b, d, t, g) at the beginning, middle and end of words and also consonant clusters (e.g. 'sl', 'fr', 'tr'). During this assessment your child is asked to name 3 items in a picture book.

### Diagnostic Evaluation of Articulation and Phonology (DEAP) – Phonological Assessment Subtest

The DEAP phonological assessment subtest is used from 3 years of age onwards. It is a standardised assessment that looks at your child's pronunciation of vowels and consonants and identifies any speech sound error patterns that they are using. During this assessment your child is asked to name familiar items in a picture book.

These assessments aim to provide a general indication of your child's progress in their speech and language development however we understand that children's participation in the assessments can be affected by a range of factors such as attention and fatigue. As such, the assessments form one piece of your child's picture and other sources of information including your reporting, and therapy sessions are used to complete the picture of your child's progress.