

# Algoma Community Bulletin: Preschool Speech and Language

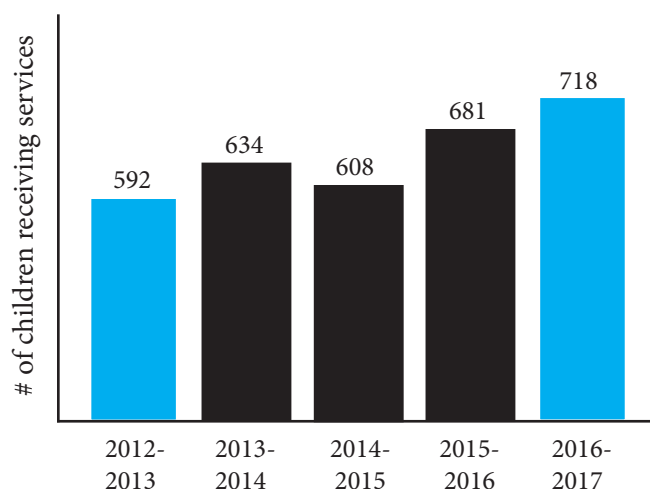


*Algoma*  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Santé publique Algoma

The first years of life are very important for developing speech and language skills. One in 10 children need help developing skills. Without help, a child may struggle to listen and talk, learn to read or play with other children. **The earlier a child needing help is identified, the better the outcomes are.**

## Algoma Public Health Preschool speech and language services and referrals<sup>2</sup>

The number of children receiving speech and language services has **increased by 21.3%** since 2012/2013.



Speech and Language Program at Algoma Public Health in last 5 years:



**1524**  
Referrals received



**446**  
Families coached to help their children



**423**  
Preschool children supported

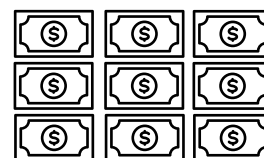
## Did you know?



The majority of speech and language referrals are made by parents.



As a parent, you have a critical role to play for improving your child's communication skills



**Every 1 dollar** spent on preschool speech and language services saves up to **9 dollars** in future health, social and justice services<sup>3</sup>

## Algoma Public Health's focus to improve language development in children involves:

- Offering the Preschool Speech and Language Program to families, which includes speech and language assessments, interventions and supports for parents to help their children at home.
- Offering e-learning information for parents on our [website](#).
- Answering parent questions on the Parent Child Information Line at 705-541-7101 or 1-888-537-5741.

<sup>1</sup>Your baby's speech and language skills from birth to 30 months. [Internet] Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services [Updated May 12 2016; Cited June 8 2017]. Available from [http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/earlychildhood/speechlanguage/brochure\\_speech.aspx](http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/earlychildhood/speechlanguage/brochure_speech.aspx) <sup>2</sup>Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Integrated Services for Children Information System (ISCIS); Annual Monitoring Report for Preschool Speech and Language Program, Algoma PSL System, Fiscal Years 2012-2016. Accessed April 10, 2017. <sup>3</sup>10 Communication Health Statistics [Internet]. Speech-Language & Audiology Canada; [Cited June 8 2017]. Available from: <http://www.sac-oac.ca/sites/default/files/resources/Communication%20Health%20Statistics%20info%20sheet.pdf>