



Shoreline Speech Therapy

PRESCHOOL SPEECH, LANGUAGE, & HEARING SCREENINGS

What is a 'screening'?

Screening is sometimes used to help identify those who might need an assessment. It does not determine the presence or absence of a communication disorder, nor does it provide a profile of communication difficulties and strengths. Screenings are helpful when a child's guardians are wondering *whether it is worthwhile to arrange a full assessment*.



Sample of tools used when screening children's speech and language.

What is an 'assessment'?

The purpose of an **assessment** is to identify/diagnose or rule out communication delays/disorders. An assessment provides a profile of communication strengths and difficulties and prognosis for improvement with treatment. If treatment is recommended, an assessment informs treatment planning and recommendations.



Samples of tools using during the assessment of children's language (left) and speech (right).

A screening usually takes no more than 30 minutes, requires minimal analysis by the SLP, and can be summarized in a one-page written report. An assessment can require 1-3 hours of a client's time depending on the purpose of the evaluation. For every hour of testing with the client, the SLP

requires up to two hours for analysis, documentation, and report writing. The final written report is multiple pages and contains information both for the child’s parents and other professionals (e.g., teachers, doctors, other SLPs).

What is the difference between a ‘screening’ and an ‘assessment’?

	Screening	Assessment
Purpose	<p><u>Answers the question:</u> “Should I arrange an assessment?”</p> <p>You do not need to have a screening before an assessment.</p>	<p><u>Answers the questions:</u> “Is my child’s communication developing as expected? Do they have a delay or disorder? What are their specific strengths? What are their specific difficulties? What treatment would be appropriate? What referrals are needed?”</p>
Advantage	<p><u>Advantage:</u> Efficiently identifies children who would most benefit from an assessment.</p>	<p><u>Advantage:</u> Provides the most comprehensive information.</p>
Professional Fees	<p>free during community events</p> <p>\$40 outside of events</p>	<p>\$160-240</p>
Testing Time	<p>Preschool: 30 minutes</p> <p>School-age: 30-45 minutes</p>	<p>Preschool: 60-90 minutes</p> <p>School-age: 1-3 hours</p>
Report	<p>Brief 1-page summary</p>	<p>Detailed, full report (several pages)</p>
Referral	<p>No doctor’s referral required</p>	<p>No doctor’s referral required</p>



What happens during a screening?

Intake and history:

1. The SLP obtains and documents the informed consent of the child's legal guardian(s) for the screening. If someone other than the legal guardian(s) is bringing the child for their screening appointment (e.g., their grandparent), this consent can be provided in advance. *The screening cannot be done without consent.*
2. The guardian(s) will provide basic contact information (e.g., address).
3. The child's guardian(s) provides some information about language milestones and family history of speech and language difficulties.



Hearing:

1. The SLP looks briefly in the child's ears.
2. The child listens to several beeps and indicates (in an age-appropriate way) if they have heard them.



Speech and language (depending on age):

1. The SLP listens to any concerns the child's guardian(s) may have.
2. The SLP observes the child's behaviours.
3. The SLP looks in the child's mouth.
4. The child is shown plates of images and asked to point to or name specific pictures.
5. The child answers questions.
6. The SLP listens to what the child says during their interaction and makes note of pronunciation, grammar, and any stuttering.



Summary:

1. At the end of the appointment, the SLP will share whether the child received a 'pass' or 'refer' result. Sometimes they may wish to look at the data more closely before communicating a result.
2. If a child receives a 'refer' result in any area, the SLP will provide information about options for next steps and make referrals as needed (e.g., a hearing test at the Dalhousie Audiology Clinic or Hearing and Speech Nova Scotia).
3. After the appointment, the SLP will summarize the results of the screening in a one-page report and mail this to the child's guardian(s).

What happens after a screening?

	Outcome	Next Step
screening performed	1. pass result for all areas screened	→ The guardian continues to monitor their child's development and contact a professional only if new concerns come up.
	2. refer result for speech/language	→ A full assessment is recommended. The guardian can arrange the assessment with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Shoreline Speech Therapy – another private practice – Hearing and Speech Nova Scotia (preschool or pre-primary) – the school SLP (primary and older)
	3. refer result for hearing	→ A full assessment is recommended. The guardian can arrange the assessment with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dalhousie Audiology Clinic – Hearing and Speech Nova Scotia The SLP can make this referral for you.



(902) 219-3065
www.shoreline-speech.com
info@shoreline-speech.com

Paddlers Cove
 300 Prince Albert Road, Suite 206
 Dartmouth, Nova Scotia