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Hanen Language Program

for children with language delay
Information Sheet No. 2

Second in a series of information sheets on children's communication difficulties aimed at health & education professionals and parents.

Does your child?

- Use less than 30 single words and no 2-word utterances at 2 years of age.
- Generally use 2-3 word phrases only, by 3 years of age.
- Have difficulty understanding & following instructions generally, by 2-4 years of age.
- Seem very slow developing language and communication skills.
- Seem reluctant to imitate words or sounds.
- Show frustration or behavioural problems because of their communication problems.

Perhaps the **Hanen Language Program** might be helpful to you and your child.

The Hanen Language Program provides **family focused** early language intervention. In other words, it shows you how to help your child learn to communicate using the "tools" of language play, books, music and games. The Hanen Approach helps our children communicate and learn by the "3 **A**" Way:

1. **A**llow your child to lead
2. **A**dapt to share the moment
3. **A**dd language and experience

The Program is appropriate for children with developmental delays and specific language impairments. It translates research on language development and early language intervention into a practical, hands-on approach to clinical language therapy. Caregivers learn strategies to facilitate language development and social interaction through practice activities and discussion. Caregivers learn to integrate and apply the strategies effectively in the child's home, early childhood setting and other "natural environments". Comprehensive handouts are provided during therapy sessions and "home practice" tasks are given and strongly encouraged.

The **Hanen Language Program** can only be provided by qualified and certified speech/language pathologists. The speech pathologists at Box Hill Speech Pathology Clinic have completed the required Hanen training, which allows us to run the program. The Hanen Program originates from the Hanen Centre in Canada, which is a non profit charitable organisation, dedicated to providing innovative early language intervention to children with language delays. It carries out comprehensive research which underpins the program and its success.

If you have any concerns about your child and the possibility of language delay, seek an assessment and intervention early.

*NB. We hope you find this information helpful and any comments would be greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact Vince or Sarah on 9899-5494 if you have any concerns NB: The information contained herein is not advice. It is general information for adults on children's communication development. It is not intended to be used as a sole means of identifying children with communication difficulties. Advice from a qualified paediatric Speech Pathologist is recommended.
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