



Intermediate Unit 1

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Donald W. Martin
Executive Director

LETTER TO PARENTS KINDERGARTEN SPEECH SCREENING TEST

Dear Parent:

All children enrolled in kindergarten will receive a speech-screening test. This test will identify children with errors in their speech production.

Children in kindergarten should have mastered the sounds P, B, M, N, NG, T, D, W, F, V, K, G, H and the vowels. These sounds should be produced correctly at this age (approximately 5 years old). If an error is found to exist in several of those sounds, the child may be recommended for speech therapy during the kindergarten year.

Sounds such as R, S, Z, TH, L, ZH, CH, SH, S-L blends are more advanced in normal speech development and often develop naturally without speech therapy by the age of seven. These sounds depend upon maturity and proper dentition, which may take until the second grade to fully develop. It is true that some children do talk fluently as young as 3 or 4 years of age without noticeable errors. Parents of these children should be aware that speech errors might appear later on, because of dentition.

The kindergarten children will also be screened for severe language problems, such as inability to relate experiences, imitate sounds, compare objects, etc.

Before a child is enrolled for speech/language therapy, the parent will be informed of all information, additional testing and therapy. It is hoped that this information will give the parent an insight into the case selection of students for speech therapy, during the kindergarten year.

If you have any questions or request additional information on speech therapy,

contact: _____, Speech/Language Clinician, at _____

_____ School on _____.

Sincerely,

Speech/Language Clinician