

Communication Skills Program



The Communication Skills Program is a specialized system program designed to meet the needs of students in grades 1-3 with diagnosed communication delays or disorders. The program offers a smaller class size with whole-class, small-group and one-on-one instruction. A focus on literacy, numeracy, language and communication is integrated throughout the day. Flexible and responsive instruction is guided by an Instructional Support Plan (ISP). The classroom is supported by a teacher, educational assistant and speech-language pathologist. Students may participate in regular classes for some programming. The Communication Skills Program receives additional support through Elk Island Public Schools' Specialized Supports multi-disciplinary team.

Benefits for Students

- Improved speech and language development
- Improved literacy and communication skills
- Improved social communication

Programming Priorities

- Provide a language-rich, smaller class size with targeted instruction
- Build literacy and numeracy skills
- Create opportunities for students to participate in the school community and inclusive classroom settings

Transitioning Out of the Program

- Speech is easy to understand for most listeners. Students may exit the program with residual speech-sound errors (for example, 'r' distortions, lisps for /s,z/, 'th' simplification).
- Language functioning could be effectively supported in a regular classroom setting. Students may exit the program with mild delays or disorders in their understanding and use of language (receptive and expressive language).
- Academic functioning would allow the student to return to an inclusive classroom setting with minimal accommodations.

Eligibility

Students must:

- be 6 to 8 years old as of December 31, in the year they will enrol in the program;
- have a clinical diagnosis of a severe speech-sound disorder
OR
have a clinical diagnosis of a severe speech-sound disorder and a receptive and/or expressive language disorder as measured by a standardized assessment
- demonstrate average cognitive ability as diagnosed in a psychoeducational assessment; and
- be a resident student of Elk Island Public Schools.

Eligibility for continuation in the program is determined on a yearly basis.

If you feel your child might be eligible, discuss your child's programming needs with your school team. They, along with the specialized supports consultant, can help to determine if the program might be a potential fit for your child.

Locations

- Woodbridge Farms Elementary (grades 1-3)

Questions about this program?

Current EIPS families:
Contact your school team

New EIPS families:
Contact EIPS' Supports for Students team at 780-417-8219

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FAQs

