

## Media Release May is Speech and Hearing Month

Many of us take our hearing and speech for granted. However, one in six people has a speech, language or hearing disorder.

Children are at risk of developing social, emotional, behavioural and/or learning problems if speech, language and/or hearing problems are not identified early.

Communication is a vital link between human beings. Through our ears we gain much of our information about others and the world around us. We need to ensure that all children have access to newborn hearing screening and timely intervention services to enable them to live their lives to their fullest potential. Newborn hearing screening is an essential first step in the strategy for identifying children with permanent childhood hearing loss and should be a standard of care in Canada. Early intervention is critical for children identified with communication problems.

If you suspect a child you know has a hearing loss or speech problem, encourage the family to contact a physician, audiologist, or speech-language pathologist.

The Elks of Canada proudly continue to support early hearing detection and intervention programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ELKS LODGE

OR CALL THE ELKS OF CANADA TOLL-FREE: 1-888-THE-ELKS (843-3557)

www.elksofcanada.ca

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