

About The Hanen Centre

Founded in 1975, The Hanen Centre is a Canadian not-for-profit charitable organization with a global reach. Our mission is to provide parents, caregivers, early childhood educators and Speech-language Pathologists/Therapists with the knowledge and training they need to help young children develop the best possible language, social and literacy skills. This includes children with or at risk of language delays and those with developmental challenges such as Autism Spectrum Disorder.

We do this by:

- Creating programs in which groups of parents and other caregivers learn how to promote children's language development during everyday activities
- Training Speech-language Pathologists/Therapists to lead Hanen Programs® and to use the Hanen approach in their day-to-day work with families
- Developing outstanding, user-friendly materials for parents and professionals that break down the latest research into practical, usable strategies
- Participating in leading-edge research in our field to ensure that our programs are evidence-based

For more information on The Hanen Centre and the *Target Word* Program, visit our website at www.hanen.org.



HELPING YOU
HELP CHILDREN COMMUNICATE

www.hanen.org

Target Word™



The Hanen Program® for Parents of Children Who Are Late Talkers

*Helping parents
build their children's
expressive vocabulary*

Information for Parents



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Target Word™

The Hanen Program® for Parents of Children Who Are Late Talkers

About the *Target Word* Program

Target Word is a family-focused program for parents of children who are late talkers. It is designed to teach parents how to help their children use more words during everyday routines and activities.

This program was developed by The Hanen Centre to help parents meet the unique needs of children who are late talkers. Research shows that **how** parents play and talk with their children can create opportunities for children to learn new words.

Target Word is led by a Hanen Certified Speech-language Pathologist/Therapist (SLP/T) who has received specialized training from The Hanen Centre.

Who Is the Program for?

This program is for parents of young children with delayed expressive language. A child is considered a Late Talker if he or she:

- Has an expressive vocabulary of fewer than 24 words and is between 18 and 20 months; or
- Has an expressive vocabulary of fewer than 40 words and is between 21 and 24 months; or
- Has an expressive vocabulary of fewer than 100 words and is between 24 and 30 months; or
- Has limited word combinations by 24 months; and
- Has relatively good understanding, play, social, motor, and cognitive skills; and
- Has some risk factors (e.g. limited use of gestures, family history, does not copy words)

Why Are Parents Involved in the *Target Word* Program?

Parents are the most important people in a child's life. One of the greatest gifts parents can give their child is help to communicate. Parents know their child best and in the *Target Word* Program, they learn ways to naturally create opportunities for their child to use words during everyday routines and activities.



What Parents Learn in the Target Word Program

Parents learn how important they are to their child's language learning. With an individual communication goal in mind for their child, they learn strategies to create language learning opportunities. During the program and with their *Target Word* SLP/T, parents choose 10 target words that are interesting to their child.

The *Target Word* Program teaches parents:

- how to respond when their child communicates without using words
- how to turn everyday activities into opportunities for language learning
- how to introduce new words and ideas into playtime and other activities
- how to join in their child's play and favourite activities in ways that help their child use new words
- how to set up activities so their child can learn new words

Target Word is run over several weeks and typically includes:

- an individual consultation for each parent and child with the Hanen Certified SLP/T before the program begins
- five informative, interactive sessions with small groups of parents learning practical strategies to help their child expand his/her expressive vocabulary
- two individual appointments with the Hanen Certified SLP/T to discuss how to fine tune the information for their child. These appointments

include video-recording the parent and child interacting. Together, the parent and SLP/T review the recording and discuss the strategies that are most helpful for the child's language learning

- support from other parents of children with delayed expressive language

What Parents Say About the Target Word Program

"I am now much more aware of how to respond to my child so he gets opportunities and help in developing his vocabulary. My child now has a great number of words (almost double)."

"I thoroughly enjoyed the [*Target Word*] Program and would highly recommend it to any parent."

"My child progressed so much and we, as a family, feel our relationship has grown as we can all communicate now!"

"Thank you for your time, understanding and guidance. It's a wonderful gift you've given us – the ability to understand and communicate with our child."

Program Materials

The *Target Word* Program is supported by the *Target Word* Parent Handbook – a personalized workbook which allows you to relate the program information to your child, plan and record your home activities and track your own and your child's progress. The program is also supported by *It Takes Two to Talk® – A Practical Guide for Parents of Children with Language Delays*.

For more information about these resources, visit www.hanen.org/TWprogram

Target Word™

Some of the strategies parents learn in the Target Word™ Program

Let your child lead



Join in the play and other activities and model the words your child would use

TARGET what you say



Highlight words and add gestures to make the words stand out

Expand your child's message



Add new ideas and words to your child's messages

Create language opportunities



Use mini-routines to create opportunities for your child to send language messages