



THE POWER OF *parents*

As a parent, you're a superhero for your child in so many ways. But did you know that your powers include being an essential part of your child's early language intervention? If your child has a language delay or disorder, you and your child's speech-language pathologist (SLP) can work together to make the biggest possible difference in your child's language learning.

The Powers You Possess

- ★ You are your child's first and best teacher.
- ★ You have the strongest relationship with your child and they are most comfortable communicating with you.
- ★ Your knowledge of what your child enjoys most will make interactions motivating and fun!

Research shows...

- ★ You can have a big impact on your child's communication development with the support of an SLP – and the earlier you become involved the better!
- ★ Children learn to communicate best when they're engaging with adults who support their learning in enjoyable everyday interactions (e.g., snack time, bath time, etc.).
- ★ Building your child's communication in their natural environment makes it easier for them to learn and use the skills in new situations.
- ★ Parent involvement in early language intervention improves children's confidence, language and social skills.

What does it mean to be involved in your child's intervention?

Playing a leading role in your child's speech and language therapy is also called **parent-implemented intervention**. In this kind of intervention, you:

- ★ Set goals for your child collaboratively with your speech-language pathologist.
- ★ Learn strategies and how to apply them in your daily activities and routines while having fun together.
- ★ Practise using the strategies you've learned with your child.
- ★ Reflect and problem-solve with your speech-language pathologist.
- ★ Discuss changes and progress you see in your child.
- ★ Adjust your child's goals as needed with your speech-language pathologist.

For more information about the power of parents in early language intervention, visit www.hanen.org/ParentInvolvement

Research shows that when parents use specific interaction strategies with their child during everyday routines and conversations, children's language skills improve.

Rakap, S. & Rakap, S. (2014). Parent-implemented naturalistic language interventions for young children with disabilities: A systematic review of single-subject experimental designs. *Educational Research Review*, 13, 35-51.

How to get started

- ★ Ask your SLP about parent-implemented intervention.
- ★ Visit the Hanen website at www.hanen.org/articles for practical, research-based tips to start building communication skills with your child.

