



Five Counties  
CHILDREN'S CENTRE



# BUILDING ABILITIES FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN

in support of  
Speech Language Therapy



# Building Abilities for Life Campaign



The need for speech-language and communication therapies grows every year. Because of the increasing need, some children have to wait, falling further behind.

Support of our “Building Abilities for Life” Campaign helps ensure kids get the treatment and support they need that will impact the rest of their lives. We believe everyone has something to say and should have the opportunity to write a letter, talk to a family member, or pursue an educational goal. With your help these tasks are possible.

In 2020/2021 our speech and communication programs supported 1,452 kids to receive speech and language services. Currently, we have 1,334 children on our waiting list for speech and language therapy with an average wait time of 18-24 months.

Donations mean more kids and their families will continue to receive our services in person, by phone and virtually. This ensures children learn how to feed, swallow, improve speech and language skills and have access to adaptive communication equipment when they need help the most. Our donors are part of the solution for kids and families to get the early intervention that is key to building their abilities for life.

**What you do for kids is amazing!**

# Five Counties Impact

As a Mom, I cannot express how much Five Counties has impacted our family. I always thought our son, Owen, had autism and when the doctor told me he did, I cried. I didn't cry because I was sad, I cried because I was relieved. I was excited to get him help. At age two and a half, Owen was referred to Five Counties Children's Centre and at three and a half Owen started his Five Counties journey.

Like the 3,108 children who are currently waiting for treatment at Five Counties, Owen had to wait to begin his therapy. One of the longest waitlists is for speech related services which is why I am asking for your investment in the Building Abilities for Life Campaign, in support of Five Counties' speech and language programs.

After 4 months of speech therapy at Five Counties, Owen started speaking in the first person. It may seem like a small step, but it was a huge win for our family and an even bigger win for Owen. With the help of his speech therapists and his hard work, Owen has grown so much in the last few years. His speech and writing skills have tremendously improved. His main goal right now is pronunciation and communication, trying to achieve that back-and-forth conversation that we all use everyday.

It's important for his future. It's a skill he needs so that he can be as independent as possible as an adult. At Five Counties, Owen is learning life skills to help him reach his greatest potential.

Your support means keeping kids in therapy and off waiting lists. Your donation is an investment in a child's future and encourages their confidence, independence, and inclusion in our community. Please give to the Building Abilities for Life Campaign today because every donation helps kids like Owen be their best.

Sincerely,  
Ashley, Proud Five Counties Mom



# Speech Language Therapy

## SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS HELP CHILDREN WITH COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS

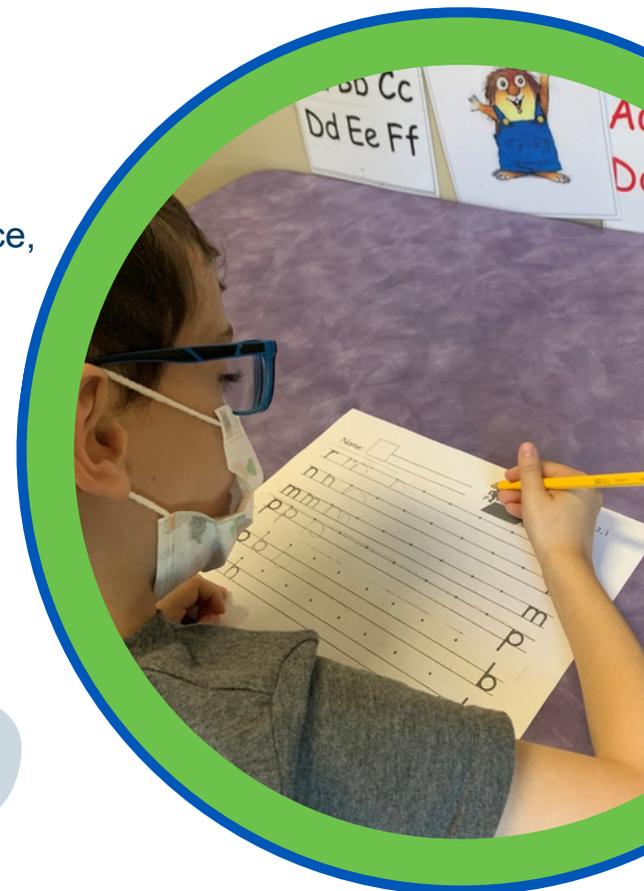
### Five Counties services include:

- Assessment and treatment of problems with feeding, swallowing, articulation, language, voice, and stuttering
- Parent educational programs
- Child groups and individual therapy
- Giving suggestions to parents and other caregivers
- Community education and collaboration
- Services are available up to age 6 with exceptions for some children with physical disabilities up to the age of 19 yrs.



“Communication skills are at the core of life's experience, particularly for children who are developing language critical to further development and learning. A child who is unable to receive this support risks delayed language skills, lower academic performance and social isolation. The staff at the Centre can enhance our clients' verbal skills, their reading, and ability to organize their thoughts as well as processing skills, attention spans, comprehension levels, and problem solving. The success of the 'Building Abilities for Life' campaign is crucial to ensuring more children receive these vital services.”

- Darlene Callan, Director of Clinical Services



# Jason's Five Counties Story

At 27, Jason walked through the doors of the Centre for a meeting and knew instantly he'd been here before. "It was "déjà vu, it was like I was there yesterday" even though he couldn't remember when he'd been here before or why.

He spoke with his mother and found out he was diagnosed with hearing challenges at age 4. His mother was looking for support for him and was referred to Five Counties. Because of his young age, all Jason remembers at the time was this was a place to come and "talk to a nice person he played games with", he didn't realize he was having therapy related to his speech. "I found out I struggled with my speech, had extreme social anxiety and was very timid as a child. The staff at Five Counties were able to help me improve these areas of my life."

He realized the staff at the Centre gave him the tools to boost his confidence and believe in himself. Jason has since gone on to win multiple speech competitions including at the national level and work as a professional speaker around the world, something made possible because of the help he received from Five Counties.

Jason realized the power of telling his story so other people could learn, grow, and see a solution for themselves. "With Five Counties, you're never alone."

As an adult, Jason came through those doors for that meeting and once he was reconnected with the Centre, he wanted to help. "I spent seven years helping with fundraising on their board to give back because this organization has given so much to me – thank you for that, this place changed my life."



# A message from Scott Pepin, CEO

Five Counties Children's Centre's 'Building Abilities for Life' campaign addresses the investment needed to support as many children and their families in our communities as possible in speech and language therapy, which is our highest need program.

For some kids, the things other children do like telling a family member about their day once they're home, talking on the phone to a friend, or having the confidence to speak up at school would be impossible hurdles for them without professional support. Children with communication challenges want and need to be heard and understood in whatever ways are possible for them.

This campaign is important because we know the earlier a child can receive treatment, the more likely it is they can reach their full communication potential. This investment carries forward into adulthood, where having these improved skills will continue to provide a positive impact on their quality of life.



## Five Counties Children's Centre

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CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Charitable Registration # 12397 6342 RR0001