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 autistic children or children who may benefit from social communication support.

We do this by:

- Creating programs in which groups of parents and other caregivers learn how to promote children's communication 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 More Than Words Program, visit our website at www.hanen.org.



en HELPING YOU HELP CHILDREN COMMUNICATE

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The Hanen Program®
for Parents of Autistic Children or
Children Who May Benefit from
Social Communication Support

Helping you turn every moment of your child's life into an opportunity to communicate

Information for Parents



HELPING **YOU** HELP CHILDREN COMMUNICATE

About the More Than Words® Program

More Than Words is a program that provides parents of autistic children or children who may benefit from social communication support with practical strategies to support their child's communication.

This unique program was developed by experienced speech-language pathologists at The Hanen Centre. *More Than Words* is offered to parents around the world by Hanen Certified Speech-Language Pathologists/Therapists who have received specialized training from The Hanen Centre.

Why Are Parents Involved in the More Than Words® Program?

Parents are the most important people in their child's life, as well as their child's best teacher. As a parent, one of the greatest gifts you can give your child is the support to communicate and find more joy in their interactions with others. In the *More Than Words* Program, you learn practical and powerful strategies to support your child's communication and interaction during fun everyday routines and activities.

It is within these familiar and joyful everyday interactions that your child's communication skills will grow.

The Hanen Program®

for Parents of Autistic Children or Children Who

May Benefit from Social Communication Support

What Parents Learn in the More Than Words® Program

- How your child communicates right now and the next steps to take
- How to identify and include your child's sensory preferences in fun engaging activities
- How child led play leads to fun back-and-forth interactions
- How to turn everyday activities into opportunities to support your child's communication
- How to help your child understand what you say
- How to join in on your child's favourite things to do and help them develop their communication skills while having fun together



The More Than Words® Program Offers:

- A consultation for you and your childwith a Hanen Certified Speech-Language Pathologist/Therapist before the program begins.
- A series of informative and personal classes for small groups of parents
- Three individual consultations for you and your child with your Hanen Certified Speech-Language Pathologist/Therapist during which:
 - you discuss social communication goals and specific strategies you can use for your child.
 - you are video recorded interacting with your child during everyday activities. This video is then reviewed and discussed with you so you can "see" what is helping and what else you can do to to support your child's interaction and communication.

Program Materials



The More Than Words Program is supported by the Hanen guidebook More Than Words. This beautifully illustrated book follows the program's content in a practical and easy-to-understand format.

For more information about *More Than Words* resources, visit www.hanen.org/MTWresources

What Parents and Professionals Say About More Than Words®

"My son has made incredible strides due to your program. He has surprised a lot of people... What I really love about your course is that we are taught to work with our children... Your course is invaluable and a must-do for parents, relatives and friends. I am forever grateful."

Debra, mother of 4-year-old, Anthony

"More Than Words is a 'must-have' reference for parents [of autistic children], and for professionals supporting parents. More Than Words respects the need for parents to be parents and for children to be children – and to learn as children learn, using developmentally appropriate practices. Parents and professionals will love this book and the Hanen approach."

Barry M. Prizant, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Director, Childhood Communication Services Cranston, Rhode Island Adjunct Professor, Brown University Center for the Study of Human Development



The More Than Words® Program

Parents learn practical ways to help their child reach the following four goals:

1. More back-and-forth social interactions



Learn strategies to have more joyful back and forth interactions with your child in everyday activities.

3. Increased turn-taking in routines



Support your child's participation in routines.

2. Enhanced communication skills



Help your child take the next social communication step based on their current abilities.

4. Improved understanding of language



Help your child make sense of their world.