When words slowly

For parents worried about a child’s ability to talk or to perform daily activities, a new questionnaire will be a great resource for doctors and speech and language professionals. As now formulated, the questionnaire for Lucas, 5, and parents Rita and Ron O’Neill, is crucial to a child’s education and development. The first step available now is to be used by teachers, family doctors and speech and language professionals, as well as parents.

The quick test can offer great help, parents say. "This questionnaire is very practical, because it can be used by a busy doctor or a parent, and not only measuring or helping because kids are often quiet or speak in their way," noted the parent who filled in the questionnaire for Lucas, 5, during that time, parents get to know what their child is not doing. If they can afford a more extensive language test, parents often pay out of pocket or private assessments are used, but they can get immediate results.

"Just seeing their kids are on track in developing language is very vital," said the parent who filled in the questionnaire for Lucas. "It allows them to look for the next step, what they can do more quickly and in the spot."

O’Neill founded the child studies centre at UW in 1990, and the project began the next year when she drafted the first version of the questionnaire, called the Language Use Inventory, at the University of Washington's Child Studies.

The study is published in the American Journal of Epidemiology. The findings were based on responses to a child language questionnaire mailed to women aged 18 to 74, asking them about past use of antidepressants and other health factors.

The study was conducted by the Canadian Breast Cancer Research Alliance, which is supported in part by the Canadian Cancer Society.

ECONOMICS

Use among children can result in rashes

Echinacea failed to relieve children’s cold symptoms and even harmed some, researchers said in a study of people. A study of people was funded by the Canadian Breast Cancer Research Alliance, which is supported in part by the Canadian Cancer Society.

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