

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, children with developmental delays, and autistic children.

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 TalkAbility Program, visit our website at www.hanen.org.



HELPING YOU
HELP CHILDREN COMMUNICATE

TalkAbility™



The Hanen Program® for Parents of Autistic Children Who Are Speaking in Sentences and Having Conversations

Strategies to bring even more connection, meaning and joy to the conversations and interactions you have with your child, and to help your child extend these skills to interactions with others

Information for Parents



HELPING YOU
HELP CHILDREN COMMUNICATE

TalkAbility™

The Hanen Program® for Parents of Autistic Children Who Are Speaking in Sentences and Having Conversations

About the TalkAbility™ Program

TalkAbility is a Hanen Program for parents of autistic children (ages 4–8). The program offers research-based strategies for using your child's unique strengths and preferences, as well as the natural interactions you have with your child every day, to promote their social and conversational abilities. You'll learn how to understand each other's perspectives, create more joy and connection in interactions, and support your child's conversations with both adults and peers.

Who Does TalkAbility™ Help?

The *TalkAbility* Program is the right fit for you if you and your child if you answer "yes" to three or more of the following questions.

Would you like to help your child:

- Connect with others more easily?
- Have longer, more meaningful conversations?
- Understand the perspectives of others, while helping others understand your child's perspective?
- Understand non-verbal messages within the context in which they are communicated?
- Build their friendship skills?

What Parents Learn in the TalkAbility™ Program

At the *TalkAbility* program, you'll learn practical strategies that you can easily build into your child's everyday life. You'll use these strategies to:

- Encourage longer, more meaningful conversations
- Help your child notice and understand the social messages people send non-verbally
- Understand your child's perspective and help them understand the perspectives of others
- Foster your child's friendship skills



Why Are Parents Involved in the TalkAbility™ Program?

Since your child is most comfortable at home with you, there's no better place for them to learn. Once you've gained the skills to support your child's social and conversational skills, *TalkAbility* then guides you in helping them use these skills to make friends more easily. You'll gain many ideas and strategies for developing existing friendships as well as encouraging new friendships. You'll learn when to step in to help the friendship along and when to stay in the background, letting the children work out the play themselves.

The TalkAbility™ Program Offers:

- A consultation for you and your child with a Hanen Certified Speech-Language Pathologist/Therapist to identify your child's unique strengths and needs
- A series of informative and personal classes for small groups of parents, where they can share their stories and learn in a comfortable environment
- 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 for your child
 - you are video recorded interacting with your child using the strategies you learned in the previous group sessions. This video is then reviewed and discussed with you so you can "see" what is helping and what else you can do to help your child learn

- your child is video recorded playing with another child while you coach and support them as necessary. This videotape is also reviewed and discussed with the Speech-Language Pathologist/Therapist

Program Materials

The *TalkAbility* Program is supported by the Hanen guidebook *TalkAbility: People skills for verbal children on the autism spectrum – a guide for parents* by Fern Sussman. This book contains practical ideas for helping children have successful social interactions with both adults and other children.

For more information about the *TalkAbility* guidebook, please visit: www.hanen.org/TAGuidebook

What Parents and Professionals Say

"After my child learned to talk, I didn't know what to do next - I just knew he needed more help. The *TalkAbility* program gave me a thousand new ideas on how to help him progress to the next level, both in his conversation and play with other children. He still plays with the little boy he met during the program."

Debra, mother of Adam

"Beautifully written, clear and immediately usable, there are few books that parents will find as accessible and full of useful tips as this one."

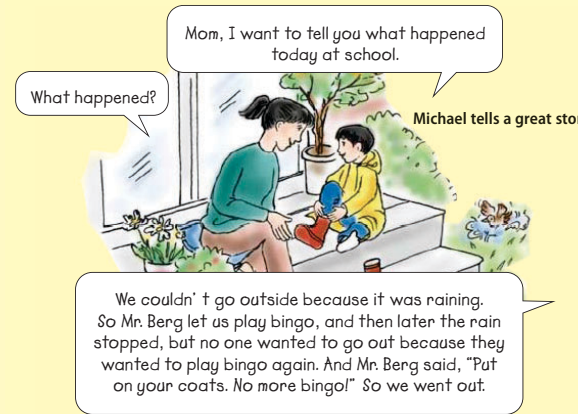
Simon Baron-Cohen, Ph.D.

Director, Autism Research Centre
Professor of Developmental Psychopathology
University of Cambridge

The TalkAbility™ Program

What you will learn:

1. How to help your child have longer, more meaningful conversations



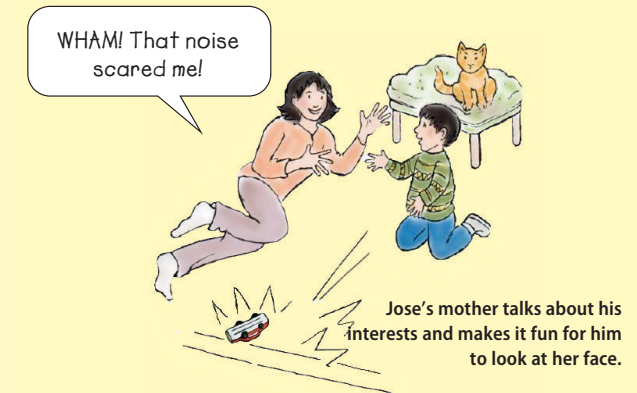
Talking about your child's interests is an effective way to keep the conversation going longer.

3. Gain a better understanding of what your child thinks and feels and help your child understand what others think and feel



Using words that emphasize different points of view is one way to help your child understand that people have thoughts that are different from their own.

2. How to help your child understand the messages contained in people's facial expressions and gestures



It's easier for your child to notice facial expressions and body language when you are face-to-face with them.

4. How to be your child's play coach and help them make friends or deepen friendships



By stepping in and being part of the game, you support your child and their friend in the game. Then, you can step out and let the fun continue.