

ADVERTISING FEATURE

# HEALTH & FITNESS

## Children are never too young to be tested for hearing problems

The earlier a child is diagnosed with a hearing loss, the better.

"No child is too young to be tested if a hearing loss is suspected," said John Shiffman, of Markham Stouffville Hearing Services Ltd. "The earlier a child's hearing loss is detected,

the less effect the loss will have on his speech development, social growth, learning ability and classroom performance.

The following is a checklist for the average speech and hearing behaviour for children:

Three to six months: Your infant awakens or

quiets to the sound of your voice and turns his eyes and head in the direction of the sound.

Seven to 10 months: Your baby turns his head toward familiar sounds, even if the sound is not in sight.

11-15 months: Your baby understands some

simple words and makes appropriate responses. Your baby tries to imitate and match sounds with his own speech production.


One and a half years: Your child identifies things in response to questions, such as parts of the body. He uses a few single words. While not completely or perfectly pronounced, the words should be clearly meaningful.

Two years: Your child follows simple commands without visual cues from the speaker. Your child listens for the meaning of words, not just sounds; understands simple questions and commands and uses mainly nouns in his or her language. Also, your child puts two to three words together to make sentences, although they are not complete or grammatically correct. Your child has between 200 and 250 words in spoken vocabulary.

Three years: Your child understands and uses simple verbs, pronouns and adjectives. Your child begins to obey prepositional phrases; uses words to relate to observations, concepts, ideas and relationships; can tell a story or relay an idea to someone; has a sentence length of three to four words; has a vocabulary of nearly 1,000 words and can produce consistently m, n, p, f, h and w.

Four years: Your child is able to give connected accounts of some recent events and can speak of imaginary conditions.

Your child will have a sentence length of four to five words; uses past tense correctly and has nearly 1,500 words in spoken vocabulary.




**Dr. William A. Murphy**  
*is pleased to announce*  
*his association with*  
**Dr. Kevin F. Brown**  
*Dr. Murphy will be relocating to:*  
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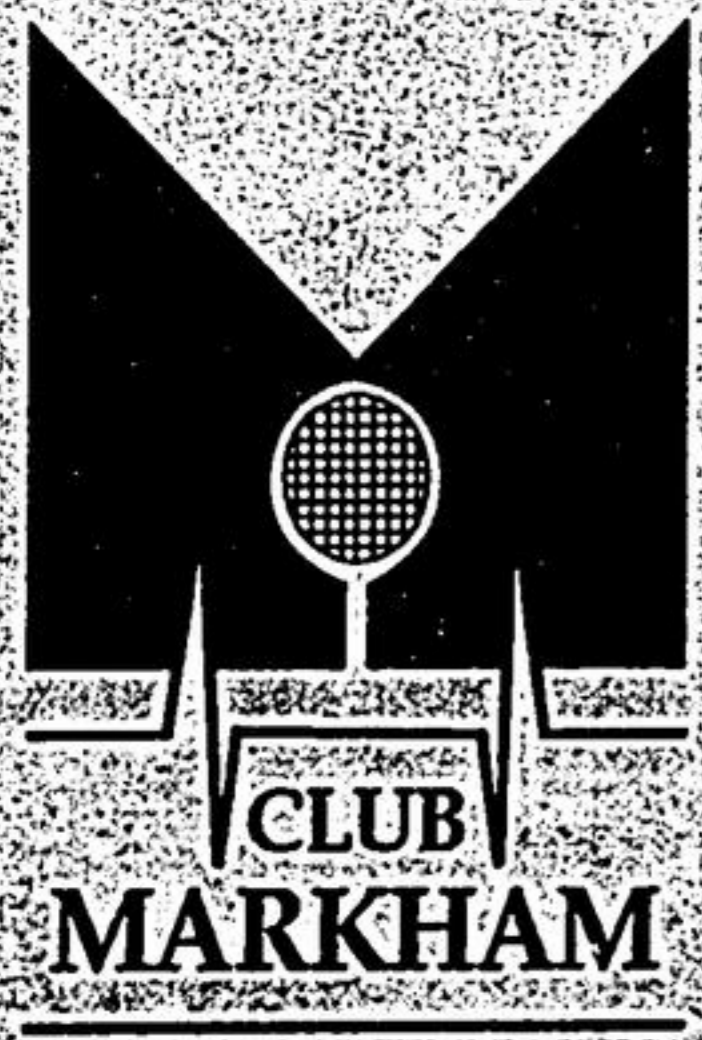
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