

# Come Talk With Me



a monthly newsletter produced by  
**USC Caruso Family Center**  
for Childhood Communication

Volume 2 • Issue 8 • August 2017



## From Your Audiologist

As your child goes back to school and enters a new classroom setting, take the time to educate the teacher and staff on managing your child's listening device. Exchange contact information in case any problems arise with your child's listening device in the classroom setting.

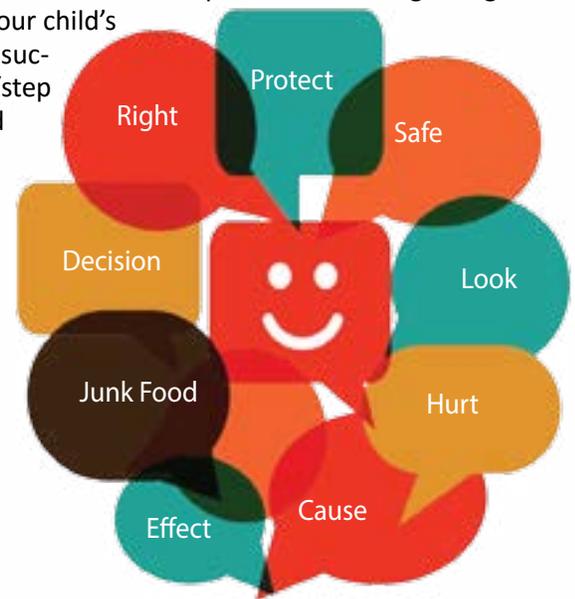
Prevent your child from missing academic instruction and socializing with friends by making sure your child's batteries are charged up and he or she is equipped with backups before leaving for school.

## Words Matter

As the first day of school is approaching, let's hit the refresh button on health and safety tips and jumpstart into the new school year! So let's cover our coughs, walk not run, and make good choices to help keep our bodies safe and our minds sharp. Words to target for this month's theme could include: choice, caution, careful, protect, safe, nutrition, junk food, rule, cover, listen, look, right, left, decision, consequence, hurt, cause, and effect.

For early listeners, help your child understand simple commands regarding body actions. While improving your child's understanding, you build school success, "sit down," "don't touch," "step over (object)," "move away," and "give me \_\_\_\_\_."

Explain homophones (words with multiple meanings that have the same pronunciation). For example, the word "right" ("write") can indicate the meaning of truth, a point of direction, or even the action of marking letters, words, and sentences on paper.



## Parent Strategies

Once your child is using single word approximations, keep expanding. Add one word to their utterance with the continued expectation that they will repeat the longer utterance.

To enhance early communication and listening abilities, identify predictable meaningful language to use consistently during daily routines. Consider including phrases such as "be soft/gentle," "wait for me," "listen to (person)," and "be careful" during conversations.

As your child settles into the new school year, pay close attention to signs or red flags that may indicate your child is being bullied. Examples include: unexplained injuries, lost or destroyed toys, books, electronics, or jewelry, change in eating habits, and difficulty sleeping. Log onto <https://www.stopbullying.gov/what-you-can-do/parents/index.html> for more information on bullying.



# Read On!

Why I Should Eat Well? By Claire Llewellyn

A Little Book about Safety By Samantha Kurtzman-Counter

Hungry Henry By Marla Osborn

The Juice Box Bully by Rob Sornson and Maria Dismody

Chrysanthemum By Kevin Henkes

Have You Filled a Bucket Today? By Carol McCloud

Icky Sticky Germs By Barry McDonald

Dragon at the Cabin By Christina Williams

The Barn By Avi



## Supporting your child's literacy development

1. Keep a writer's notebook. Encourage your child to bring their writer's notebook whenever they go on family outings. A trip to grandma's house, a soccer game, or a meal at a restaurant will provide you with opportunities to notice, wonder, and write about your shared experiences.
2. Encourage your child to write to another child. Keep in mind that children like to write to other children.
3. Motivate your writer by providing a place for writing, such as a desk or table with a smooth surface, plenty of lined and underlined paper, pencils, pens, and crayons. Spend time talking with your child about their ideas, impressions, and observations.



## Let's Chat

Help your child learn to control a situation using their words. Young children often attempt to control play using gestures, or by manipulating the environment. Teach your child how to say, "look out," "don't touch it," and "wait for me."

Encourage your child to make good choices. When packing your child's lunch, encourage your child to make healthy choices. You can expand their sentences by using "so/so that," such as "I need to eat a healthy lunch so I can pay attention in school," "I'll put my homework in my backpack so that I remember to give it to my teacher."

During conversations with older children, have them use infinitives (i.e. "to be + adjective") as subjects. "To be healthy is to eat right and exercise," "To be careful is to look both ways before I cross the street," and "To be safe is to wear a helmet when I ride my bike."

## Social Stars

For younger children, narrate what you are doing. For example, if you lost your sunglasses, talk about looking for them, where you are looking for them, why you are looking for them in that place, and why you need to find them. It's important for your child to listen to you as you describe your thinking. Do this throughout the day. This will help your child develop language skills. These skills support your child's ability to read and write.

When your child makes a good choice, such as eating an apple versus a cupcake, respond to your child with a smile, and use verbal praise. When a poor decision is made, such as hitting a sibling, respond with a disappointed face and a lower tone of voice. Use your voice and facial expression to acknowledge your child's efforts at making good choices this month.

