

Come Talk With Me



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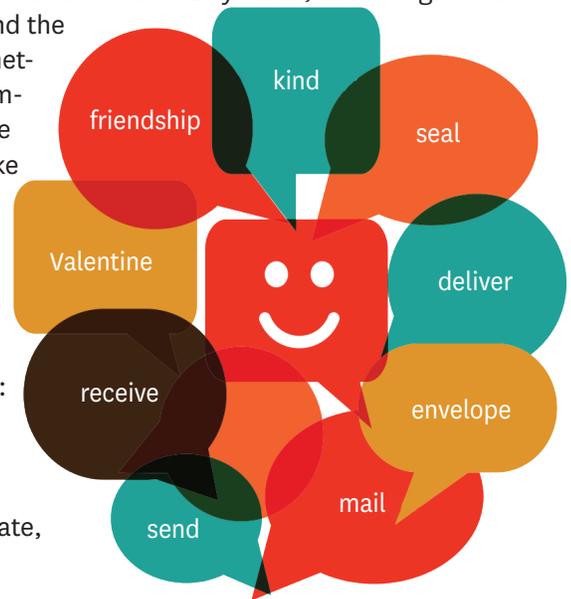


From Your Audiologist

- Be sure that you are using your dry and store containers or Zephyr. Moisture can damage your child's hearing technology. If you use a dry and store container, make sure you replace your desiccant tablets every 2 months.
- When changing batteries, let the battery sit for about two minutes because it needs air to activate. Once a sticker tab is removed from a battery, the activation process begins and the battery must be used immediately. Placing the sticker back on the battery will not prolong use.

Words Matter

- Help your child develop word flexibility by demonstrating that words can have more than one meaning. For example: seal a card or a seal at the zoo, sign your name or look at the street sign.
- Increase your child's ability to use early word combinations by targeting the words "give" or "get." For example: "Give a kiss," "Give a hug," "Get a card," or "Get some candy."
- As your child sends and receives Valentine's Day cards, now is a good time to help your child understand the meaning of puns, similes, metaphors and idioms. For example: "Orange you glad we are friends," "We go together like peanut butter and jelly," "Friendship is a warm hug," or "I love you to pieces."
- Additional words to include in conversations this month: card, thoughtful, considerate, friend, include, invite, sweet, treats, heart, cupid, bow, arrow, flowers, chocolate, love, caring and message



Parent Strategies

- Children learn language best by using it. Make sure you create opportunities for turn taking. Ask your child open-ended questions, make comments that may elicit a comment, create a problem by presenting the wrong item, forget something, or play back and forth games. Encourage your child to take a turn and set the expectation that a verbal turn is required.
- It is difficult to demonstrate a skill that we do not know how to use confidently. Remember this when working with your child. Instead of testing your child, make sure that you are teaching them. Help your child learn new concepts by modeling them. Help your child associate meaning with sounds by showing them the source of the sound.
- Your child is half-way through this school year. Check in with your child's teacher so that you know how they are doing. Be sure to ask: What is going well? In what areas does your child need additional support? What can you do at home? What topics/themes will they cover for the remainder of the year?



Read On!

- [Heart to Heart](#) by Lois Ehlert
- [Guess How Much I Love You](#) by Sam McBratney
- [The Day it Rained Hearts](#) by Felicia Bond
- [Love Is](#) by Claire Keane
- [Love, Splat](#) by Rob Scotto
- [Here Comes Valentine Cat](#) by Deborah Underwood
- [Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch](#) by Eileen Spinelli
- [George Washington: An American Life](#) by Laurie Calkhoven



Supporting your child's literacy development

- Research tells us that children continue to develop their auditory understanding of language beyond their primary years. In Jim Trelease's recent book, [The Read Aloud Handbook](#) 2nd edition, he encourages parents to read aloud through the 8th grade.
- When reading aloud with your child, stop and ask your child to picture what is taking place in the story. Draw a picture. Read on. Stop and ask your child to use a word to describe how they are feeling. How might the main character be feeling? Write down the word your child comes up with.
- It is important for your child to continue to read aloud. Consider sharing the book by telling your child: First I will read, and then let's read together, and then I will listen to you read!



Let's Chat

- Increase the length of your child's utterance by helping them to use compound subjects. For example: "**Mom, dad and I** will go to the movie theater this afternoon," or "**The flowers and the candy** are for my teacher."
- Help your child list out 2 tasks in a different way by introducing "but first." For example: "I will finish signing my Valentine's Day cards, **but first** I will finish my math homework."
- Help your child gain information by asking questions about what would happen. An example: "What happens if the ice cream is left on the counter?" "What happens when you don't put a stamp on an envelope?"
- Infinitives are verbs that follow the word "to." Focus on infinitives that follow words such as like, want or need. For example: "I like to get Valentine's Day cards for my friends," "I want to eat some chocolates," or "I need to show this stuffed bear to my mom."

Social Stars

- Teach your child a new skill this month such as zipping a coat, tying a shoe or playing a new game. Your child will have the confidence to interact with children in your neighborhood, at school and in the community to show off their new skill. This creates an opportunity for communication.
- Use the strategies of modeling or prompting to help your child provide a related comment or ask a question to continue the conversation. Strive for 5 conversational turns!
- Between the ages of 2 and 3, children improve their narrative skills by using sentences that link together with a common character, topic or setting. Help your child to make multiple statements related to the same idea. For example, your child may list: "Grandma has a blue shirt, Grandpa has a black shirt. Daddy has a white shirt, Mommy has a yellow shirt. I have green shirt. The dog has no shirt."

