

Come Talk With Me



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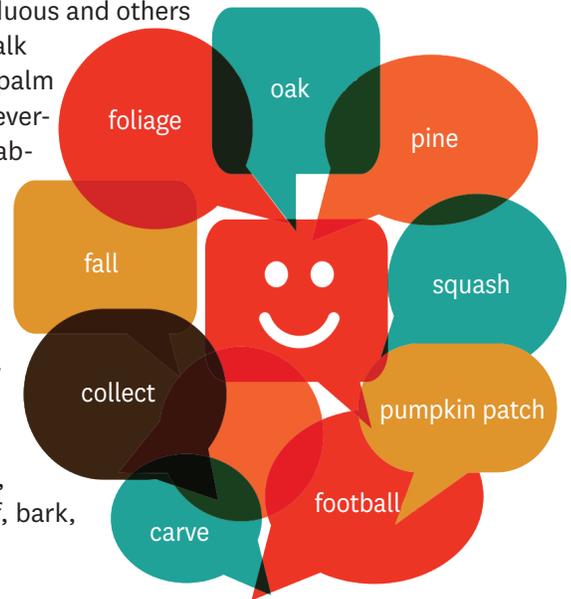
From Your Audiologist

October is Audiology Awareness Month!

- Remember to talk to your children about the need to protect the structures of their ears. Remind them to keep the volume down on the TV, radio, and when using ear buds for their iPad or iPhone. If they are having trouble hearing, there may be a better solution than turning up the volume. Talk to your audiologist about it!
- Help your child to understand their hearing loss. Teach one new concept this month.

Words Matter

- When talking about new vocabulary make sure to point out the parts of an object, not just the label. For example, when talking about a pumpkin you can label the stem, pulp, seeds and skin. Cover parts of an object in a picture so your child has to identify what the object is just by looking at a part of it.
- Use more specific words with your children. For example, there are different types of trees. Some are deciduous and others are coniferous. You can also talk about different kinds of trees: palm trees, maple trees, oak trees, evergreen trees. This expands vocabulary and creates another opportunity to discuss the parts of the trees and how they are different or the same.
- Great words to include in conversations this time of year include: leaves, acorn, nut, season, rake, leaf blower, needles, pumpkin, gourd, autumn, scarecrow, harvest, maple leaf, bark, jack-o-lantern.



Parent Strategies

- Children need to learn that there are many ways to say the same information using different words. Think about varying your talk with your child this month. Use synonyms to increase vocabulary. Change your statements during routines. For example one day you can say, "It's time to take a bath," but the next time you might say, "Let's go take a bath."
- Make language fun and use silly sabotage throughout the day. Give your child a fork for their cereal so they have to ask for a spoon. Tell them it's time to put their shoes on their head. This gives them a chance to use their thinking/problem solving skills and their auditory skills as well as their language skills.



Read On!

The Halloweener By Dave Pilkey

Tiny Tilda's Pumpkin Pie By Susan Cantor

The Runaway Pumpkin by Anne Lewis

The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bat by Lucille Colandro

The Monster's Ring by Bruce Coville

All the Lovely Bad Ones by Marion Downing Hahn

The Ugly Pumpkin by Dave Horowitz



When reading with your child....

- Encourage your child to make meaningful connections when reading together. Make connections to events that occur at home. Make connections between characters and events in the story that you are reading and to characters and events in other books read together. Make connections to the world around you, "Remember when we put on costumes for Halloween?"
- Act out stories that you read. Pretend to be Tiny Tilda baking a pumpkin pie. Create a pie store banner. Encourage your child to dramatize story events!
- Make waiting time READING time. Don't offer your cell phone as a first choice. Read a book together. You will help your child accumulate the 20,000 hours of listening experience necessary to learn to read and write.



Let's Chat

- When comparing, make sure to target the grammatical markers "-er" and "-est." This tree is taller than that one. The redwood tree is the biggest of all the trees. This pumpkin is taller than that one, but that one is rounder.
- As you talk about different kinds of items, you can sort them into groups. This is a great time to practice using the words: together, apart, with and doesn't. When doing puzzles or looking at parts of an item, you can target these words as well.
- Combine multiple ideas into one sentence to increase the complexity of your child's sentence structures. For example, "Although autumn and spring are both seasons of change, they are different because spring represents beginnings and autumn represents the endings."
- Talking about parts of items and talking about kinds of items within a classification provides many opportunities to practice using the subject pronoun, "it" such as "It's a kind of nut" or "It is a part of a tree."

Social Stars

- Strive for 5! Help your child take at least 5 conversational turns. This could be by making a comment to add to the conversation or to acknowledge, asking a question or answering a question. If your child is having trouble coming up with something to say you can prompt them by saying, "you could say..." Wait time will be important to help your child be successful. Pick a motivating topic to help keep your child maintain interest.
- Jokes and riddles can be such a fun way to increase language abilities. Especially as the holiday season begins, there are many jokes and riddles that are related to current vocabulary that help children to increase their knowledge of the world and understand what is being discussed in the classroom, on TV or on the playground.

