

Come Talk With Me



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

Volume 1 • Issue 7 • September 2016

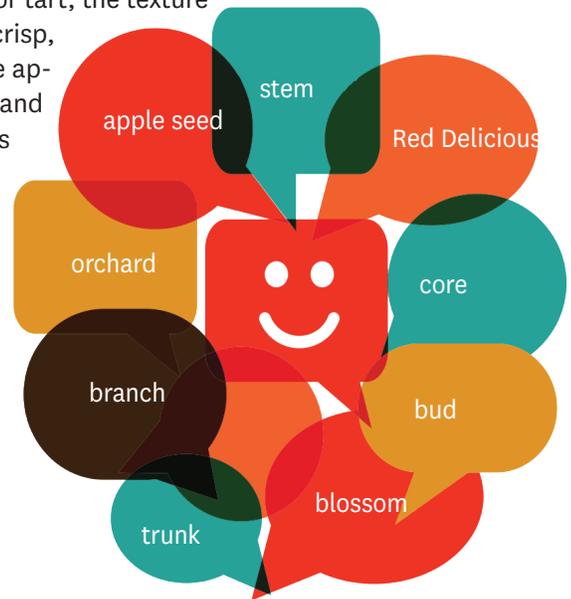


From Your Audiologist

- Change your child's microphone covers on his/her cochlear implant.
- Check your child's cables for wear on their cochlear implant processor.
- Check your child's rechargeable batteries. When was the last time you replaced the batteries?
- Create new listening experiences at home and in your community. Listen to different types of music, attend an outdoor concert, take a listening fall walk and point out what you and your child hear.

Words Matter

- Subtle seasonal changes in Los Angeles create unique opportunities to talk about new sensory experiences and the changes that we see in our community.
- Take time to check out the seasonal selection of produce at your local farmer's market. Apples, apples, everywhere!
- Increase your child's flexibility in word usage by incorporating more descriptive words during daily conversations. Consider describing the taste of an apple, e.g., the apple is sweet, sour, or tart, the texture of an apple, e.g., the apple is crisp, crunchy, or mushy, the way the apple looks, e.g., shiny, bruised, and round or the way an apple feels e.g., smooth.
- Consider incorporating time related words (first, next, finally, and then) to describe an experience such as baking an apple pie, going apple picking, or making caramel apples.



Parent Strategies

- In order to make adequate progress at school your child needs adequate sleep. Review the American Academy of Pediatrics suggested sleep amounts with your tweens and teens.
- Consider establishing 'screen free zones' as suggested by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Set up areas of your home where children have no access to screen time. The recommendation for children and teens is to engage with 'screens' for no more than 1-2 hours per day of HIGH quality content.
- For children under 2 years of age, NO screen time is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Replace screen time with purposeful conversations with your infant and toddler to develop listening, language, and literacy skills. This will help your child develop imagination, thinking, problem solving, and attention skills necessary for academic success.



Read On!

- Apples, Apples, Apples by Gail Gibbons
- The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree by Gail Gibbons
- The Apple Pie Tree by Zoe Hall
- Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell
- Johnny Appleseed by Madeline Olsen
- The Mouse and The Big Red Apple by Maggie Harbison
- The Apple Pie that Papa Baked by Lauren Thompson
- Diary of a Wimpy Kidd by Jeff Kinney
- Nine, Ten: A September 11th Story by Nora Raleigh Baskin



When reading with your child....

- Help your toddler hold a book the proper way, ask your child to turn the page, note where your child's eyes are looking. Does your child scan from left to right of the page? from the top of the page to the bottom of the page?
- To become a fluent reader, your child needs to listen to fluent readers. Consider asking an older sibling, a neighbor, or another family member to read aloud to your son/daughter. This continues to be important during the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grades.
- Encourage your son/daughter to ask his/her own questions about stories read aloud together.



Let's Chat

- For the younger child, encourage your child to use a variety of verbs to describe actions: pluck an apple off a tree, twist off the stem, bite into an apple, rinse an apple, waste an apple, or save the seeds.
- For the older child, encourage your child to use time related words to construct longer sentences, "During September we will welcome the first day of fall."
- Check your child's understanding of the following structure: "The apple was eaten by my sister." Does your son/daughter understand that this describes the same event, "My sister ate the apple."

Social Stars

- Younger children should be encouraged to wave hi, and wave good-bye while making eye contact with their communication partner. Encourage the use of please and thank you!
- Fall sports start during September. Encourage your child to join a team sport. Team sports build self-confidence, responsibility, and cooperation.
- Encourage your school age son/daughter to choose their words carefully. Be mindful of what you say to your friends. Once a child says something to a friend, the words can't be retrieved.
- Modeling this practice of thinking and incorporating good word choice at home with family members will support carry over with peers in the school and in the community.

