

Come Talk With Me



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

Volume 1 • Issue 3 • April 2016

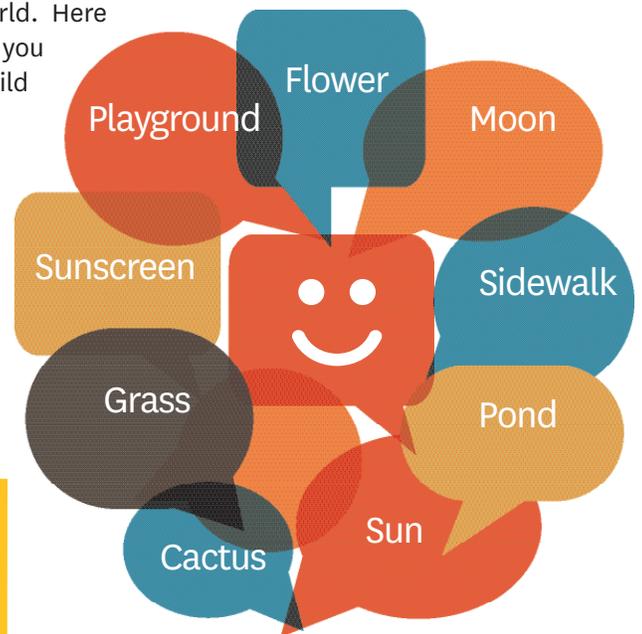


From Your Audiologist:

- Consider your child's listening bubble. As you take your child outside to explore the world, close the distance between yourself and your child to be sure that they have the best access to your voice.
- Clean your child's molds regularly to make sure the sound is able to travel from the hearing aid to the ear and then to the brain! If your child is old enough, help develop ownership of their hearing aids and molds by having them help you keep them clean.
- Be sure to check the fit of your child's molds. It may be time to come in to have a new pair made.

Words Matter

- When talking about new vocabulary think about words that represent classifications. When your child spots a pretty rose you can respond by saying, "That's a rose, its a type of flower," or for a lizard you may say, "A lizard is a kind of reptile."
- Helping the brain make connections between words will help grow a child's vocabulary. Talk about "things that go together" such as: the moon and the stars, a shovel and gardening gloves, bunnies and carrots or playgrounds and swings.
- Let's spend this month thinking about all the wonderful things we can explore right outside our homes as well as some of the wonderful ways we can explore the world. Here is a small list of words you may introduce your child to: palm tree, rocks, stars, play, run, jump, ride, swing, hop, skip, climb, lake, river, stream, stoplight, crosswalk, stroller, merry-go-round, bicycle and balloons.



Be A Social Star



- There are many parks and playgrounds in the Los Angeles area for you to bring your child to. Take the opportunity to teach your child playground etiquette or manners. Do they know to wait until another child is off the slide before they take their turn? Do they know how to ask to join a child to play? Do they know how to tell a child when it is their turn and that they have been waiting?



Parent Strategies

- This month let's think about the routine you have established in your home associated with going out. This is an excellent time to embed new vocabulary words associated with your routine, work on following directions with the number of elements your child is working on and making a list of everything you need to do before heading outside.
- Teach your child how to play outdoor games. They are great for physical health as well as for good language development. Fun games include: Hopscotch, Tag, Hide-and-Seek, 4 square, Red Rover, Simon Says, Mother May I, and Red Light, Green Light
- One way we use our listening is to monitor our environment. When outside with your child, teach them to use their listening to understand their surroundings for safety. Make sure they know: to listen before they cross the street, to stay close enough to parents that they can still hear them if necessary and use their listening to know if another child is coming down the slide. Our listening is a way to keep us safe!



Let's Chat

Spring is a time of change. Introduce the words “become” and “change” to your child. “The caterpillar changes into a butterfly” and “The buds on the tree branches become leaves.”

Help your child generate questions. “How do I climb to the top of that ladder on the playground,” “Why do the worms come out when it rains,” “What do the butterflies eat?”

As we find new things in the outdoors, talk about what they: look like, taste like, smell like and feel like. Make sure to use the sentence structure, “The snail shell looks like a cochlea!”

Read on!

Good book recommendations from our staff:

- **When Spring Comes** by Kevin Henkes
- **Planting a Rainbow** by Lois Ehlert
- **The Tiny Seed** by Eric Carle
- **Mouse's 1st Spring** by Lauren Thompson
- **My Spring Robin** by Anne Rockwell
- **Charlie Needs a Cloak** by Tomie dePaola
- **Bunnicula** by Deborah Howe



When reading with your child....

- Take opportunities to point to text on the page. When reading the story to your child, follow along the text with your finger.
- Use the pictures to help your child retell the events from the story.