

Come Talk With Me



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for Childhood Communication

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From Your Audiologist

1. New baby at home! Schedule an appointment to have your baby's hearing assessed in our clinic.
2. Avoid dropping your child's technology. Hearing aids, BAHAs, and cochlear implant processors are susceptible to damage if they get dropped on hard surfaces. When cleaning or handling your child's devices hold them over a soft cloth or soft surface. Explain the importance of taking care of their devices to your child and family.

Words Matter

Let's get on track for the month of December as we talk about trains and all the places they take us to! Vocabulary to target for this theme can include the following: track, car, conductor, caboose, engine, engineer, Metra trains, passengers, commuters, subway, rail, ticket, transfer, station, travel, commute, schedule, departure, arrival, package, gift, sleigh, travel, guest, and visit.

- Introduce to your child words that correspond to distance such as – close by, far away, near, long distance, short commute, distant, nearby, not far, and right around the corner. Practice these terms in response to the question – “How far?” For example – “How far is San Diego?” “How far is the Statue of Liberty?” and “How far is Disney World?”
- For older children, describe location or movement terms such as – through, away, from, toward, and over. For example, “The train is going through the tunnel,” “The train is pulling away from the station,” and “The train is going towards the city.”



Parent Strategies

- Avoid having your child be dependent on repetitions. Encourage them to obtain information on the first try. After making a statement such as, “We'll be going to grandma's on Friday after school,” you hear your child respond or ask for repetition, don't be too quick to repeat. Observe, wait, and listen to allow your child to recall the information as much as she/he can. Praise your child on the information she/he recalled. This will help your child understand the importance of listening the first time.
- Help your child understand that what she/he thinks and what another individual thinks, may be different. Understanding differences in thinking is fundamental to emotional understanding, social skill development, and reading comprehension. For example, a gift is from the heart. The gift signifies what you would like the other individual to have.



Read On!

- The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg
- The Christmas Train: A True Story By Thomas Monson
- The Christmas Train by David Baldacci
- Thomas and Friends: The Missing Christmas Tree
- Peter's Railway Christmas Steam by Christopher Vine
- The Little Engine that Could by Watty Piper



Supporting your child's literacy development

1. Make a family book this holiday season. Create a collection of favorite family stories. Encourage your child to illustrate these stories and to write about a family event. Keep the collection of family stories in a special place in your home. Re-read your family stories.
2. Encourage family members to give your children colored pencils, markers, construction paper, writing tablets and spirals this holiday season to encourage drawing, telling stories, and writing stories.
3. Encourage your child to bring their writer's notebook everywhere you go. Whether it's lunch at a restaurant, a trip to grandma's house, a day at Knott's Berry Farm, there is plenty to notice, to wonder and draw about, and write about.



Let's Chat

- Talk about the characteristics of trains by using adjective strings. For example, "A very, long freight train is at the crossing" and "A mighty, powerful choo-choo train came to a screeching halt."
- Have your child tell a sequence of events by using temporal words such as "first, then, and last." For example, "First, we take the red line and then we get off at the platform and switch to the yellow line."
- Practice using more precise words to describe differing shades of meaning as related to movement, i.e. train halted abruptly on the tracks, lumbering along the tracks, steamed along the tracks, rumbled on the tracks, trundled out of the station, clunked, whined, and creaked.

Social Stars

- Encourage your son/daughter to note new/old information with "a" or "the" e.g., "I saw a sweater while I was shopping yesterday, but it wasn't the sweater."
- Share a story with your son or daughter about the holiday season. "I have something to tell you about a time when I went___"
- Prepare your child when taking a trip on a train or the city bus in the community. Make sure she/he can provide at least 2 sources of information about themselves, i.e. my name AND my address, my address AND my mother's cell phone number.

