

Come Talk With Me



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From Your Audiologist

- If your child has a home FM system, don't forget to take it along to family gatherings. If your child does not have a home FM system, encourage family members to move in closer to the microphone of your child's equipment, to maximize their auditory input.
- Be prepared this holiday season by packing your accessories prior to gatherings. Items to include are batteries, a cleaning kit, and backup aids or devices.

Words Matter

As we put away our costumes and digest the yummy candy, let's get thinking about Thanksgiving and upcoming family traditions. Words to target for this month's theme could include: tradition, family, holiday, gathering, event, remember, sharing, grateful, considerate, thoughtful, meal, napkin, platter, knife, fork, spoon, casserole, dessert, appetizer, native, pilgrim, voyage, give/gave, teach/taught, feed/fed, sit/sat, autumn, community, hungry, and thirsty.

Introduce category terms with your child such as sweet, savory, fruit, vegetable, meat, dairy, crunchy, and creamy.

While enjoying a delicious meal, help your child understand these terms by having them identify the correct food with the category. For example, "Find the vegetables on your plate," "Cut your meat," and "Please give me something sweet to eat."

Enjoying time with family is a perfect way to talk about synonyms with your child. For example, "The turkey is moist," or "The turkey is juicy," and "Grandpa is humorous" or "Grandpa is funny."



Parent Strategies

- During this holiday season, let's focus on expanding your child's spoken language skills. Help prep your child for communication exchanges with family members. For example, when your child is asked, "What have you been learning in school?" You can support your child in expanding an utterance such as "math" to "I am learning addition" or "science" to "In science class, I dissected a frog."
- Cooking together is an excellent way to expand vocabulary and practice using an organized thought process. For the little ones, practice labeling foods (i.e. turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pie) and common verbs (i.e. mixing, pouring, baking). For the school age child, practice sequencing such as "first we mix the ingredients, then we put it in the oven." For the older child, have them cook a dish with your help. This way, they have the opportunity to give you direction such as, "Get me one cup of milk and turn on the oven."



Read On!

Books for to support our Thanksgiving themes:

- Where is Baby's Turkey? by Karen Katz
- Balloons Over Broadway by Melissa Sweet
- Our Thankful Book by Todd Parr
- The Firefighter's Thanksgiving by Terry Widener
- Thanks for Thanksgiving by Julie Markes
- I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie by Alison Jackson



Supporting your child's literacy development

Ways you can support your reader this month:

- Focus on encouraging your child to answer questions before you read. Consider asking the following: Can you look at the pictures and tell me what you think will happen in this book? Do you think there will be a problem in the story?
- Encourage your child to answer questions while you are reading together. Consider asking the following: What do you think will happen next? Why do you think the character did that?
- Encourage your child to answer questions after you've read a story together. Can you remember the title? How did the story problem get solved? What was your favorite part of the story? Why was this your favorite part of the story?



Let's Chat

- During family gatherings, incorporate simple sentences using possessive pronouns into conversations, such as, "That one is mine," "This is your fork," and "These are your cousins."
- Prior to attending a holiday occasion or special outing, encourage your child to ask questions about the future event. For example, "When are we going to eat?," "Where are we meeting grandma?," "What are we going to do on Friday when there is no school?," and "Who will be there?"
- Model indirect discourse with "say/said that" such as, "Dad said that I can't have more potatoes because I need to make room for dessert," "She said that it was time for dinner," and "Did you say that we could go bowling after dinner?"

Social Stars

- Encourage family to utilize more turn-taking and providing wait time, so your child can feel more included in conversations.
- Encourage your child to consistently use descriptions to clarify. For example, "I don't want the sweet potatoes, I want mashed potatoes." "I want the turkey, but without the gravy." "I want that bread, not this one."
- Tell story about a favorite family event, a favorite family member, or a favorite family tradition. Your starter can be, "I can remember a time when...," "Every year we...," or "Do you remember the year that grandma..."

