

Come Talk With Me



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From Your Audiologist

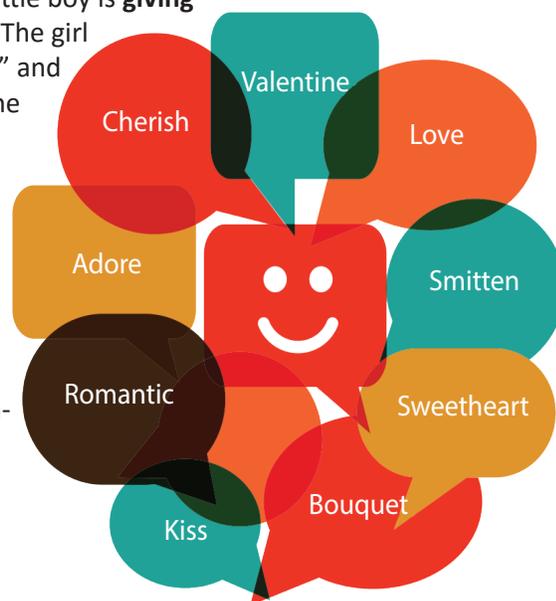
- Be thankful for your child's amplification and help your child be respectful of it. Consider your routines in caring for your child's hearing aids or cochlear implants.
- For cochlear implant users, take an inventory of your extra device parts. Make sure you have extra cables, coils, rechargeable batteries and all selected accessories. Check to be sure they are all working. If something is broken or missing contact the manufacturer to request new ones.

Words Matter

This February, let's take the time to tell our loved ones how much we care about them. Vocabulary to target for this month's theme could include: valentine, love, letter, affection, adore, bouquet, cupid, cherish, fiancé, engagement, giving, date, poem, romantic, smitten, sweetheart, serenade, chocolate, heart, kiss, and hug.

Increase your child's vocabulary by highlighting verbs to express an action taking place. For example, "The little boy is **giving** his mom a bouquet of flowers," "The girl is **wearing** a ring, she is **engaged**," and "**Serenading** is **singing** to someone you love."

For older children, check for their understanding of vocabulary by asking them for the meaning of words. For example, "You bought a bouquet of roses for mom; what is a bouquet?" "I saw your sister's fiancé this morning; who is a fiancé?" and "I see you are smitten by that letter; do you know what smitten means?"



Parent Strategies

- For new listeners, begin to develop their auditory feedback loop and auditory self-monitoring by imitating your child's vocalizations with a pause and wait for your child to repeat the sound again.
- Handing out Valentine cards is a perfect way to encourage your child to write to their family and friends. This is a great opportunity to work on sounding out words such as people's names, Valentine's Day terms and phrases (i.e. "I love you" or "Be my Valentine,"), and greetings/salutations.
- For older children, use idioms and expressions when talking to your child to make him or her think about what the words really mean. For example, "Love is blind," "Fall head over heels in love," and "Puppy love."



Read On!

- Where is Baby's Valentine? By Karen Katz
- Happy Valentine's Day Mouse by Laura Numeroff
- The Day it Rained Hearts by Felicia Bond
- Groundhug Day by Anne Marie Pace
- Love by Matt De La Pena
- Love Is by Diane Adams
- The Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli



Supporting your child's literacy development

- The National Council of Teachers of English recommends that parents “build a climate of words” at home. Go places, see things, talk about what you’ve touched, tasted, seen and heard together. You’ll help your child develop a variety of words that in turn support your child’s ability to incorporate these words into their writing.
- Model writing for your children. Encourage your child to watch you make a list of items to pick up for the classroom Valentine’s Day party. Don’t forget to read aloud the list that you’ve written. Ask your child for additional input by asking, “What else should go on our list of items we need to take to the school party?”



Let's Chat

- Use the words “and” or “but” to formulate opposing sentences. For example, “I want the milk chocolate candy **and** he wants the dark chocolate candy,” or “I want to watch a movie, **but** they want to play games.”
- During this month, have fun by creating sentence structures that use adjectives + infinitives. For example, “She was **happy to go** to the party,” “He was **excited to make** the valentine’s card for his mother,” and “They were **eager to give** the flowers to their teacher.”
- For older children, practice past perfect progressive sentences. For example, “The children **had been playing** outside all afternoon,” “We are so tired because we **had been dancing** all night,” and “They **have been feeling** sick all last week.”

Social Stars

- Teach your child to use polite/nice intonational patterns during social interactions with others by modeling the same phrase in various vocal patterns. For example, model words or phrases – “thank you,” “I love you,” and “please” in both an angry voice and a polite voice. Show your child that using the polite voice will give the child positive feedback.
- Teach your child how to ask permission to use other’s belongings. Model questions - “May I borrow your pencil?,” “May I try your bicycle?,” or “May I have some candy?”
- For older children, show them how to offer assistance if they see someone scratching their head or putting their head down, continuously looking around for something, crying, or if someone is carrying more than they can handle.

