

Come Talk With Me



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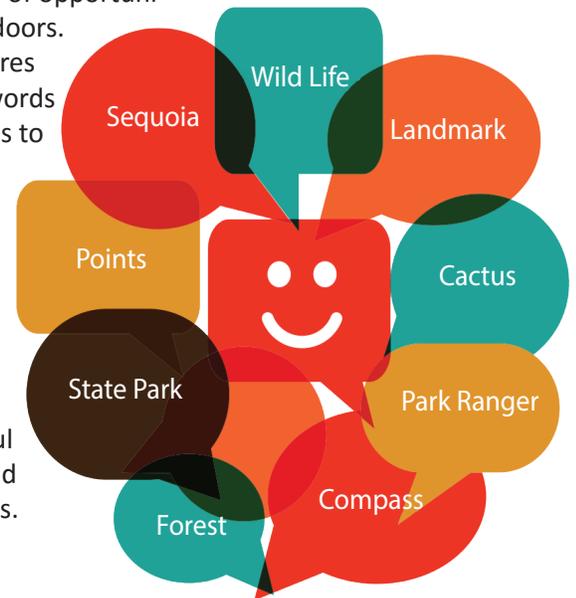
From Your Audiologist

- As you pack that emergency medical kit, we encourage you to create a hearing care kit. Pack extra batteries, a blower, and a dry and store.
- Use your cell phone notes or take a cell phone picture of the clinic appointment reminder, so you don't miss an upcoming appointment. Remember appointments are perfect times to connect with your child's hearing health care provider.

Words Matter

In the month of April, let's talk about the great outdoors and all the adventures to be had. Vocabulary to target for this month's theme include: landmark, path, state park, national park, forest, preserve, sequoia, redwood, location, waterfall, mesa, plateau, desert, cactus, park rangers, trail, google earth, directions, navigate, compass, points, wild life, park.

- As your family plans for spring break, Memorial Day weekend, and summer vacation consider the wealth of opportunities to explore the great outdoors. Naming environmental features familiarizes your child with words that matter. Use Google maps to reference and identify locations before you get there.
- Boosting your child's vocabulary during family experiences will increase your child's environmental knowledge. Learning new vocabulary during meaningful experiences will help the child retain and use the new words.



Parent Strategies

When teaching vocabulary, just labeling an item is not enough. Provide your child opportunities to not only repeat new vocabulary, but opportunities to use the words. For example, plan ahead for a trip to Joshua Tree Park. Tell your child that they will be seeing cacti. Show them a picture of the cacti, identify the cacti in the park. Then coming home from the park, provide your child with practice using the word cacti. Pull up your cell phone pictures and ask your child to tell their siblings what he saw in the part. Listen for your child to remember, understand, and use the word cactus in conversation.



Enjoying a day at a national park provides opportunities to make new words meaningful. Encourage your child to incorporate the five sense when learning new vocabulary at the park. For example, when exploring a pine tree, talk about the contrast of green needles against the blue sky, the sharpness of the pine needles, the fragrance of the pine needles, and how your child feels standing next to the tall pine tree.

Read On!

- Love is All Around California by Wendi Silvano
- One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia
- All Aboard California: A Landscape Primer by Haily Meyers and Kevin Meyers
- C is for California by Trish Madison and David W. Miles
- Goodnight California by Adam Gamble
- Dear Levi: Letters from the Overland Trail by Elvira Woodruff



Supporting your child's literacy development

1. Start with a small map. Consider drawing a map of your child's bedroom. Label items while your child watches you write. Ask your child to draw a similar map of another room of your house. Help your child add labels to his or her map.
2. To teach your child map reading skills plan ahead. Consider teaching your child map symbols. Consider teaching these symbols first: roads, rivers, lakes, and cities. Your child needs to develop an understanding that the symbol on a map represents a geographical feature or location.
3. Contour lines on a map are more difficult to explain. Help your child understand that the lines show one how a 'hill' is represented by its parts. Use Legos to build a hill. Identify the top of the Lego hill and compare this to the top contour line shown on a map. Compare and contrast your Lego hill with the contour lines on a map. Ask your child to draw contour lines representing the hill created with Lego blocks.



Let's Chat

- Practice using pronouns to mark old information. For example, when hiking outdoors, your children may race, and someone may trip and fall. In this example you could say, "Jacob tripped Marcus and Marcus fell." To increase your child's conversation ability using pronouns, state "Jacob tripped Marcus and **he** fell." By stating it this way, your child must recall the information from the event and know who the pronoun is referring to.
- Model questions that require adult permission. For example, "Can I go get a drink of water by myself?" Prompt to sibling or your spouse to ask- "What did he say?" You reply, "She asked if she could get a drink of water." Encourage your child to answer the same question using this structure.

Social Stars

- Let your child be a leader on your next hike. Have him or her give you multiple-step directions as you explore a new park. Give your child look at a park map and direct the group where to go.
- Turn off the cell phones and engage in a question game such as - "What do you do when...?" For example, "What do you do when you see a snake?" "What do you do when you're lost?" Take turns asking each other questions and make good use of car time.

