

Come Talk With Me



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From Your Audiologist

This is a great time of year to take your child on a listening walk. While at the grocery store, comment on the holiday music or the ringing of the Salvation Army bell.

Use the mini mic or the remote mic when on long car rides and in noisy environments (i.e. restaurants and malls) so that your child can participate in all family conversations.

This month, take the time to teach your child additional steps for caring for their device. For example, washing their ear molds, changing their batteries, and packing their equipment.

Words Matter

As we get ready to celebrate the holiday season, spend time reviewing words that your child may hear during the month of December. Consider using the following words in conversations with your child: Holiday, wreath, menorah, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, string of lights, yard display, inflatable, gift, ribbon, tag, card, tissue, Santa Claus, sleigh, reindeer, stable, candle, frozen, star, deflated

- Expand your child's word knowledge by helping them understand that words can have more than one meaning. For example, the word "tissue" can be used to wrap a gift or to blow your nose. The word "ring" can be used to describe an action such as – "I will ring the doorbell." Ring can also be used to describe an object – "The girl is wearing a ring." Challenge your child to learn the multiple meanings for the following words: tag, card, light, branch, cool, stump, top, warm, hot, bag, bark, mint, ring, kid, fire, cut, and stick.



Parent Strategies

- Talk about the changes you see in your neighborhood. Point out the light displays, the yard decorations, and the music you hear. Don't forget to describe the significance and the purpose of the changes that you see.
- Find time to say "thank you." This can be expressed in thank you notes or calling a loved one on the phone. This can be a great time to review our October issues, where we discussed the post office and a mail carrier.



Read On!

- [The Snowy Nap](#) by Jan Brett
- [The Mitten](#) by Jan Brett
- [The Hat](#) by Jan Brett
- [Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree](#) by Robert Barry
- [Rocking Horse Christmas](#) by Mary Pope Osborne
- [Little Owl's Snow](#) by Divya Srinivasan
- [Oliver Elephant](#) by Lou Peacock



Supporting your child's literacy development

Create a seasonal alphabet poem with your child during December. Start by creating a list of words associated with the holiday season. For example, ask your child to describe how the weather changes. Ask your child what animals might do differently during the winter season. Add these words to your list. Then, make a vertical list that includes each letter of the alphabet. Write a phrase that corresponds with each letter on your list. Include seasonal words. For example, A is for the apples that hang on our trees.



Let's Chat

- For younger children, practice asking "who" questions. Play a fun game such as "pass the Santa hat." Have your child close their eyes and family members take turns wearing Santa's hat. Instruct your child to open their eyes and ask "who's wearing the hat?"
- Practice having your child answer questions. For example, when opening presents, model the question – "Whose present is this?" Encourage your child to read the tag to find a person's name, then ask the question again and prompt your child to respond with the name.
- Help your child make a prediction by playing "pass the remote." Play a holiday video and take turns pressing pause. After each pause, practice making inferences by answering the question – "What would happen if...?"

Social Stars

Teach your child how to politely interrupt an adult conversation. Phrases to target can be – "Excuse me," "Pardon me," "May I interrupt?", and "Can I talk to you?"

Pick a topic and practice more conversation turns. For example, talk about a recent school event. Start the conversation by using a statement – "Tell me about your holiday program last night." Encourage your child to provide an explanation of the event and add more comments than questions to what is being spoken about. Make sure to provide wait time after you comment to allow your child to take a conversational turn. For example, if your child talks about singing in a choir, state – "I remember singing in a choir a long time ago at my school." Wait and cast an expectant look in your child's direction as a cue for your child to keep the conversation going.

