

# Come Talk With Me



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for Childhood Communication

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## From Your Audiologist

Make sure everyone involved in your child's care understands how to change the batteries in your child's devices, i.e., your child's hearing aid, BAHA or cochlear implant.

Try to put your child's amplification on immediately after your child wakes up. Mealtimes and early morning routines are language learning opportunities.

Use remote microphones or FM systems when you are out. Malls, museums, and grocery stores are environments with poor acoustics. Use of the FM system or the remote microphone provides your child with better access to your voice.

## Words Matter

- Happy New Year! With the change of the season and year, now is a good time to talk to your child about weather patterns, concepts of time, and to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Words to target for this month's theme include: strike, season, rainfall, first, then, finally, Martin Luther King Jr., freedom, New year, resolution, change, daily, occasionally, flood, mudslide, rarely, fog, rainy, rain, skiing, sledding.
- Children enjoy participating in conversations about changing weather. Talk about change in weather that you experience. "It's a rainy day, so you'll need your umbrella and boots." "It's chilly outside this morning, let's put on a sweater."
- On January 24, we observe Martin Luther King Jr. Talk with your child about the changes that he suggested. Describe his dream.



## Parent Strategies

- Look through old photo albums and talk about other family members and how they are related to your child. Tell a favorite family story.
- Using the January calendar identify upcoming events. Incorporate time related concepts (e.g. "this week," "next week," "last week," "every other week," and "couple of days") when discussing different occasions.
- To help your child learn the meaning of the word "occasionally," sort activities that are completed at home into two groups – "things I do daily" and "things I do once in a while." Then label things done "once in a while" with the new word occasionally.



# Read On!

- [A Second is a Hiccup](#) by Hazel Hutchins and Kady Macdonald Denton
- [It's About Time](#) by Stuart J. Murphy and John Spiers
- [What Time is it Mr. Crocodile?](#) by Judy Sierra
- [How Do You Know What Time It Is?](#) by Robert E. Wells
- [A Second a Minute a Week with Days in It](#) by Brian F. Cleary
- [A Wrinkle in Time](#) by Madeline L Engle



## Supporting your child's literacy development

Start the New Year by encouraging your child to write in a daily journal. Journaling is a great way to model good writing skills. Tell your child that your journal will be a way to dialogue. Ask your child to draw or write about an event that occurred the day. Encourage your child to keep the journal entry short. (This should take your child less than 10 minutes.) Place the journal in a special place. At the end of the day, write a short response to your child's journal. Write questions asking your child about how she or he felt? Ask your child to write more about the activity. Make this a daily activity. Praise your child's efforts for communicating thoughts and ideas by writing.

Create customized stationary. Encourage your child to write a letter to a friend thanking the friend for something special that he or she has done. Your child will enjoy using his or her personalized stationary.



## Let's Chat

- Talk about your plans for the weekend by using time concept sentences. For example, "The birthday party is later today." "Your brother's soccer game is at 2:00 p.m." "We will go to the movies on Friday."
- While looking through photo albums, model possessive pronouns – "her, his, and their." "Her mother is your grandmother." "This is his oldest brother." "These are their children."
- For older kids, practice using advanced adverb-time concepts such as – **for**, **within**, and **over**. "We are going on vacation **for** five days." "We must leave for school **within** the next 15 minutes." "**Over** the weekend, we visited grandma and grandpa."

## Social Stars

At family gatherings, encourage your child to ask how a family member is related to him/her. This will help make new family terms meaningful and help with retention of the new vocabulary. This will encourage your child to initiate conversation and teach your child how to seek information.

School is a loud and demanding listening environment for your child. Your child may show signs of exhaustion such as removing their devices, not engaging in conversations, and showing physical signs of fatigue (i.e. yawning, slouched posture, and putting head down). Prompt your child to advocate when they are in need of a listening break. "I need some quiet time." "May I take a listening break?" A listening break is a period of time where the child is not responsible for listening. This can include coloring a picture, reading a book, or resting their eyes.

