

# Come Talk With Me

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**USC Caruso Family Center  
for Childhood Communication**



## From Your Audiologist

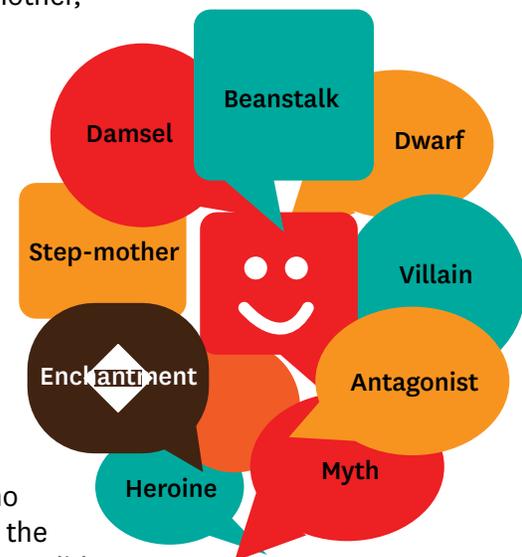
- When playing outside, don't forget to put on your child's retention clip. This will help you avoid searching for a cochlear implant speech processor or a hearing aid.
- At night, wipe down your equipment with a dust-free cloth, open the battery door, remove the battery and place the device in a dry and store container.

## Words Matter

In the month of April, let's enter the imaginative world of fairy tales. From stories of "Snow White" to "Jack and the Beanstalk," we all have a favorite or two. Words to target for this month's theme are: story, myth, heroine, crown, wand, character, adventure, hero, damsel, plot, protagonist, conflict, fairy, antagonist, castle, spell, beast, brave, princess, villain, tower, enchantment, knight, dragon, king, prince, dwarf, queen, wicked, goblin, beanstalk, forest, step-mother, carriage, and cottage.

Help build your child's fairy tale vocabulary by drawing a picture of a fairy tale scene. In your picture, include images such as a - prince, princess, castle, forest, villain, beast, cottage, and dragon.

For older children, have them write a fairy tale story. Test their vocabulary knowledge by asking questions such as - "Who is the protagonist?" "What is the plot of your story?" "What conflicts did the prince encounter?"



## Parent Strategies



- Watch some fairy tale movies with your child. As you're watching a movie, point out specific vocabulary words mentioned above. After watching, practice story retelling by reenacting a story with your child and their doll figures.
- For older children, relate a fairy tale story to a real-life event. For example, when you shop for clothes with your child, remind them how Goldilocks in the story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" had to try out multiple sizes of things in order to find the perfect fit.

# Read On!

- Ella Enchanted a Newberry Award winning book by Gail Carson Levine
- The Talking Eggs by Robert D. San Souci
- The Grizzly Bear Who Lost His GRRRR! by Rob Biddulph [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWA\\_BLhTrNA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWA_BLhTrNA)
- Hamster Princess: Harriet the Invincible by Ursula Vernon
- Cindy Ellen: A Wild Western Cinderella by Susan Lowell
- Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella by Robert D. San Souci
- Snoring Beauty by Sudipta Bardhan- Quallen
- The Story Orchestra, The Sleeping Beauty by Katy Flint



## Supporting your child's literacy development

- Have your child read aloud. Children read slower when they read aloud. This gives them more time to process and understanding what they read. They are reading the words that they see, and they hear the words that they read. Take turns reading aloud.
- Reread to build fluency. Choose poetry or children's favorite books. Pretend you are one character in a favorite fairy tale. Ask your child to assume another character's role. Read together. Don't forget to incorporate expression, phrasing, and natural changes in your intonation. This will help sustain your child's interest and auditory attention.
- Talk about what your child is reading BEFORE you read aloud, DURING the time you read aloud together, and AFTER you read aloud. Asking your child to summarize what was read is an invaluable skill. This will develop stronger reading comprehension abilities.



## Let's Chat

- For younger children, practice using "and (then)" to conjoin sentences. "The monster captured the princess **and then** the prince came to save her." "The old woman invited them in her house **and then** she fed them lots of food." "The wicked witch took her voice **and then** gave her legs."
- When reading or watching a fairy tale, encourage your child to ask "What is/are" questions. "**What is** the fairy godmother going to do?" "**What are** the mice going to make?" "**What is** the frog going to say?"
- For older children, have them share their opinion of fairy tale characters and stories using the sentence structure "not as \_\_\_ as \_\_\_." "Sleeping Beauty's dress is **not as pretty as** Cinderella's." "The bears in 'Goldilocks and the Three Little Bears' are **not as terrifying as** the old lady in 'Hansel and Gretel.'"

## Social Stars

- Create finger puppets with your child by either painting images on a rubber glove or just painting your fingers. While you are drawing pictures on your hands, converse about the characters you are creating. For example, talk about where they live, their magical powers, their best friend, and their enemy. "I'm creating a fish and she is the princess of the sea. My fish can swim and she can turn sea animals into peanut butter sandwiches. Her best friend is a seahorse and her enemy is the tiger fish!"
- For older children, play a game of finish each other's sentence to create a silly story. To play, the first person says an incomplete sentence, then the second person finishes it. The second person starts another incomplete sentence, and then someone else finishes it and starts another one, and so on. For example, "There once was a girl who" - "lived in a basket." "The basket was made out of" - "shark teeth." "The teeth were very" - "smelly." "They smelled like" - "soap."

