

# Come Talk With Me

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## From Your Audiologist

- Keep a container and recycle your used hearing aid batteries. Have your child label an empty container “used batteries for recycling.” When the container fills, take your child with you to the local recycling center and encourage your child to dispose the batteries properly.

bottle in the container. Next Tuesday, we’ll take it to the recycling center.” Talk about what you are doing when you are interacting with your child.

For older children, save four to five recyclable containers throughout the week. Ask your child to rinse each container. Sort the empty containers. For example, ask your child to rinse the plastic bottle of ketchup so that it is clean before it is placed in the recycling container. Encourage your child to repeat what they have been asked to do. Listen carefully, make sure your child does not omit the use of short words such as “of” in the example provided.

## Words Matter

During the month of February, let’s talk about taking care of ourselves and the earth. Words to target for this month’s theme include: recycle, respect, preserve, value, plastic, paper, waste, hygiene, care, advocate, reuse, metal, cardboard, container, fill, environment, aware, dispose, trash, pile, sort, nourish, and protect.

Practice using your narration skills with your child. Tell your child that you’ll be taking recyclables to the local recycling center. Tell your child that you’ll be filling the big blue recycling container with plastic bottles. Ask your child to help you (before the trip to the recycling center) by filling the recycling bin at home with empty water bottles. Narrate this event by reminding your child verbally, “You are putting the plastic



## Parent Strategies



- At home, replace screen time with an interactive activity that builds memory, attention, and language skills. Tell your child that you are going to name 15 items located inside the kitchen cabinets. Ask your child to identify the items named that are made from paper, made from plastic, made from glass, and made from metal. Help your child categorize the items that were selected.
- Personal advocacy starts at an early age. Encourage your child to order their own food when you are eating out. You may need to practice this at home in a quiet environment first before applying the skill in a noisy environment such as a restaurant.
- It’s important to build self-respect in our children. One way to develop self-respect is to encourage your child to ask for clarification or repetition of missed information. Remind your child that he or she has the same right to hear and understand information verbally stated.

# Read On!

- The Earth Book by Todd Parr
- Save the Ocean by Bethany Stahl
- Recycling Day by Edward Miller
- Recycle! A Handbook for Kids by Gail Gibbons
- The Soda Bottle School: A True Story of Teamwork by Laura Kutner and Suzanne Buckingham Slade
- Give A Coat by Jan West Schrock
- The Great Trash Bash by Lauren Leedy
- What Matters by Alison Hughes



## Supporting your child's literacy development

For our youngest children, exploring with paint is one of the earliest ways you can support writing skill development by manipulating small muscles, developing hand eye coordination, and utilizing a variety of shapes and patterns. Using an empty water bottle, dip the base of the bottle into a tray of washable Crayola Paint. Make prints on a blank piece of paper.

Have your child help you create recycling boxes at home. Using empty boxes, label the boxes in print, plastic, cardboard, and metal. Encourage your child to make the labels. Make a set of recycling boxes for a neighbor.

Work together with your child to create a family poster to hang in a prominent area of your home. The poster can include 10 ways that your family can help protect the earth. You can consider including: turning off the lights to save electricity, save leftover food instead of throwing it away, use both sides of a piece of paper, save water, and be nice to the worms after it rains!



## Let's Chat

- During everyday conversations emphasize the flexibility of word usage. For example, use the word, **sort**, during daily conversations. You can **sort** crayons by color. You can **sort** like socks to create a pair of socks. You can **sort** containers to place in your recycle bins. And, you can **sort** clothes when doing laundry.
- Practice using words such as “no, none, all gone, empty, and no more” to describe when an item is all used up. For example, “There are no eggs, the carton is empty.” “There’s no milk, the container is empty.” “Look, you have no shoes, you can’t go outside.”
- Incorporate the word “unless” in everyday conversations with your child. Introduce “unless” in one context first. For example, state “Don’t put the milk carton in the recycle bin **unless** it was rinsed.”
- Practice using the word “become” in a sentence. On a rainy day, reuse some of your recyclables by making them become another object. For example, an empty water bottle and a toilet paper tube cut in half **could become** a penguin with wings. An empty paper towel roll **can become** a rain stick by filling it with either rice or toothpicks and closing both ends. Two toilet paper rolls taped together **can become** a pair of binoculars.

## Social Stars

- Encourage self-confidence in your child. Spend time talking about all the things that he or she can do by himself or herself. Emphasize that these are skills accomplished **without** help. You can put your shoes on **without** my help. You can pack your backpack **without** my help. You can make your bed **without** my help.
- Encourage your child to ask questions beginning with “is” or “are” to gain information about how another person is feeling. For example, “Are you okay?” “Is there enough time for one more book?” “Are you going to read one more story?”

