

Come Talk With Me

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USC Caruso Family Center
for Childhood Communication



From Your Audiologist

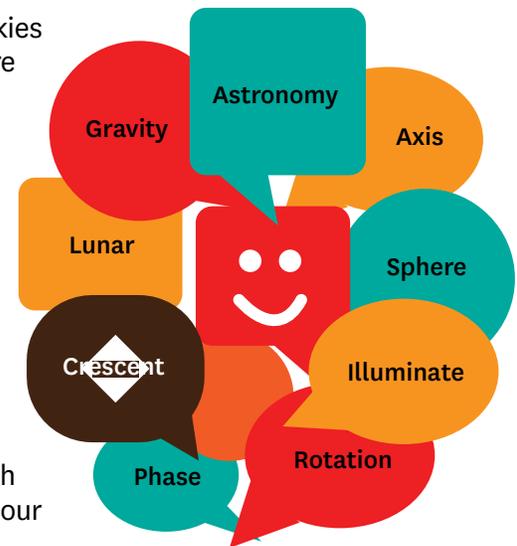
- Teach your child about their hearing loss and the importance of advocating for themselves when they cannot hear or comprehend their communication partners.
- Explain to your child the significance of respecting and taking care of their hearing equipment. Show them how to charge up or change their battery, and to check and change their cables.

Words Matter

Happy New Year Friends! We are back and ready to resume our monthly newsletter. At the start of this year, we are going out of this world to talk all things – Space! Words to target for this month’s theme are: astronaut, constellation, planets, night, moon, galaxy, atmosphere, telescope, universe, alien, solar system, half-moon, rotate, gravity, day, astronomy, sphere, revolution, full moon, sundial, illuminate, axis, lunar, eclipse, new moon, phase, and crescent.

While enjoying some yummy cookies with your child, pretend they are moons. Describe the untouched cookie as a whole moon, then as you eat the cookie, discuss the different phases of the moon such as – **half-moon**, **quarter moon**, and **crescent moon**.

For older children, discuss the Earth’s positioning with the words **axis**, **rotation**, and **revolution**. Talk about how each of these components affect our time, weather, and seasons.



Parent Strategies



- Use the opportunity of a night sky to look at the moon, stars, and constellations with your child. If you don’t have a telescope, look through a paper towel or toilet paper roll. Point out all the things you see. Talk about the events that happen at night versus day.
- Take a trip to the planetarium. Take advantage of the free opportunities such as the public telescopes and monthly shows. Giving your child a hands-on experience will help enrich their knowledge and understanding of any concept you are trying to teach them.

Read On!

- I Want to Be an Astronaut by Byron Barton
- On the Launch Pad by Michael Dahl
- Roaring Rockets by Tony Mitton
- Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes
- Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me by Eric Carle
- Mooncake by Frank Asch
- Touch the Brightest Star by Christie Matheson
- Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Put Astronauts on the Moon by Helaine Becker
- Hidden Figures for Young Readers by Margo Lee Shetterly



Supporting your child's literacy development

- Create a planet flipbook. Encourage your child to draw a picture of a planet. Write a fact together.
- Write an explanatory paragraph with your child. Explain why you would or would not like to be a passenger on the space shuttle. Hint: do this verbally first. Tell why you would or would not like to be a passenger on the space shuttle, then write why you would or would not like to be a passenger on the space shuttle
- Pretend that you are going to the moon. Write a list of items that you would like to take with you. Explain why you would like to bring these items with you.



Let's Chat

- For younger children, practice using the phrase “know how to ____.” “Do you know how to make this cookie look like a half-moon?” “I know how to turn this paper towel roll into a telescope.” “I know how to draw a moon and stars.”
- Expose your child to the concept of “when” by modeling a variety of questions and answers about activities performed during the day or night. “When do we eat breakfast?” “When do we watch TV?” “You go to school in the daytime.” “We read a story at nighttime.”
- For older children, practice using specific times as adverbs. “At 2 o'clock, we need to pick up your sister from school.” “At 7 o'clock, you need to take a shower then at 8 o'clock, you need to be dressed and ready for school.”

Social Stars

- Have fun with your child by telling a story that mixes real and unreal concepts. For example, “Once upon a time there was a sky full of stars with a cookie crescent moon. Aliens from the planet Neptune flew to Earth. The earth's gravity pulled their spaceship so hard that it landed in the water. The aliens built a telescope made out of cheese and they invited some sea animals to go back to Neptune with them.”
- For older kids, teach them popular quotes and have him or her use them to mark their experiences. For example, use the quote, “We have lift off” when taking a spoonful of food and transferring it to your mouth, or when the car begins to drive off. Another example, use the quote “Houston, we have a problem,” whenever an issue arises.

