

Come Talk With Me

Volume 4 • Issue 3 • March 2020



a monthly newsletter produced by

**USC Caruso Family Center
for Childhood Communication**



From Your Audiologist

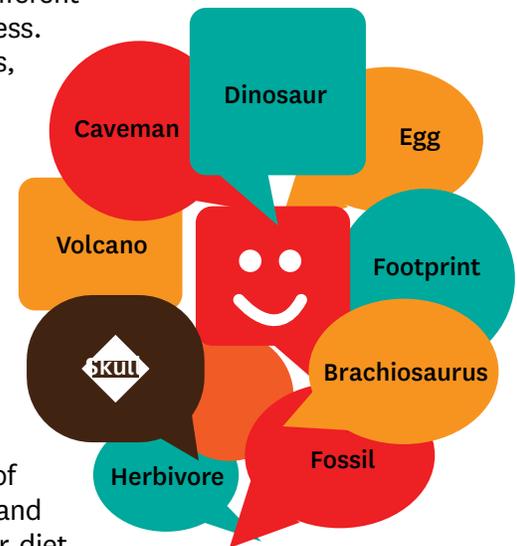
- Make sure to update your contact information with your CI company (e.g. Cochlear, Advanced Bionics, or Med El) to help eliminate any issues in communication or receiving parts.
- With school closures, it is important to conduct daily listening checks to make sure your child's equipment is working properly.

Words Matter

Let's roll into the month of March with a great big roar! This month we are talking about our prehistoric friends--dinosaurs! Words to target for this month's theme include: dinosaur, bone, egg, skull, fossil, skeleton, claws, tail, volcano, paleontologist, scales, footprint, museum, tyrannosaurus rex, stegosaurus, triceratops, brachiosaurus, raptor, cave, caveman, carnivore, and herbivore.

Talk to your child about the different body parts that dinosaurs possess. Point out their tails, their claws, and scales. Play a fun game of digging for dinosaur bones using items such as cotton swabs and bury them under items such as rice or dried beans. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of a paleontologist and how one searches for fossils.

For older children, expose them to all the different types of dinosaur names and compare and contrast these creatures by their diet, where and how they lived.



Parent Strategies



- Plan a trip to the Natural History Museum to give your child a close experience with dinosaurs. At the museum, children can see and learn a variety of things such as how fossils are brought back to life, touch a dinosaur footprint, and learn about new dinosaur species.
- Since dinosaurs were reptiles, point out current reptile animals such as birds, crocodiles, lizards, and snakes. Look up how these animals are closely related to dinosaurs.

Read On!

- Dinosaur Dance by Sandra Boynton
- Tiny T. Rex and the Impossible Hug by Jonathan Stutzman
- Smithsonian Kids: Digging for Dinosaurs by Jaye Garnett
- Have You Seen My Dinosaur? by Jon Surgal
- We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins
- How Do Dinosaurs Say Happy Birthday? by Jane Yolen



Supporting your child's literacy development

Help your child complete the following sentence, "If I saw a dinosaur, I would _____." Encourage your child to use his or her imagination and create a number of ways to complete this sentence.

Create your own children's story, "Dinosaur, dinosaur, what do you see? I see a purple brontosaurus looking at me. Purple brontosaurus, purple brontosaurus, what do you see? I see a _____ looking at me."

Plan a virtual trip to the Smithsonian National History Museum <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour/current-exhibits>

Have your child listen to your directions on how to draw a dinosaur. For example, ask your child to draw a dinosaur with a very long tail, then ask them to add 5 sharp spikes to the tail.

What do you know about a dinosaur?

Write five true facts about dinosaurs. Share with a family member. Ask the family member to add one more true fact about dinosaurs. Increase your child's knowledge about dinosaurs through an interactive family writing activity.



Let's Chat

- When talking about dinosaurs, practice using opposites in sentence structures. "This tyrannosaurs rex ate meat, but the brachiosaurus ate plants." "Pterodactyls could fly, but triceratops couldn't fly."
- Encourage your child to ask questions using the word "how." "How did dinosaurs hunt their prey?" "How fast could dinosaurs run?" "How did dinosaurs evolve?"
- Review how to compare and contrast dinosaurs by using comparative - "er" and superlative - "est" markers. "The ostrich mimic ornithomimids were the **fastest** of all the dinosaurs." "The tyrannosaurs rex was **smarter** than the spinosaurus, but the spinosaurus had **stronger** arms with **larger** claws."

Social Stars

- Perform sabotage games to encourage your child to correct others. For example, as you are learning about the scary dinosaurs, say - "The tyrannosaurs rex was a friendly dinosaur." Or, if you are learning about the different body types of dinosaurs, hold up a picture of a brontosaurus and say - "The brontosaurus had a small neck." Model a correction for your child such as - "The tyrannosaurs rex was not a nice dinosaur; he was a mean dinosaur." "The brontosaurus had a very long neck not a short neck."
- When playing with toy dinosaurs, have your child negotiate play roles. Help your child understand that negotiating usually means there is something for both parties to gain. For example, "Since we want to play with the triceratops, let's take turns by switching dinosaurs every five minutes." "I'll play 'hide-and-seek' if you let me hide my dinosaur as well."

