

Come Talk With Me

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**USC Caruso Family Center
for Childhood Communication**



From Your Audiologist

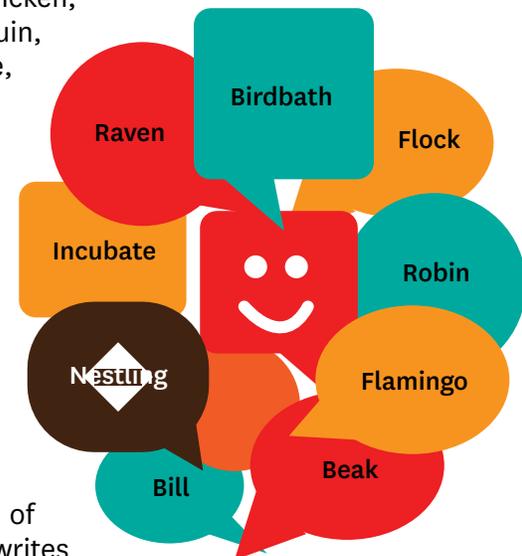
- In need of batteries? Make sure you know the number and color of the battery for your child's amplification: 312 brown, 675 blue, 13 orange, 10 yellow, and 5 red.
- Check the color of the desiccant tablet in your dry and store. If it has turned white, then it is time for you to put in a new tablet.

Words Matter

Ever wonder what it's like to be toothless? We're not talking about losing a tooth or a dragon, we're talking about birds! In the month of May, let's investigate this interesting animal. After all, they did evolve from meat-eating dinosaurs called theropods. Words to target for this month's theme include: beak, chick, wing, flock, egg, incubate, chirp, hatch, bill, tail, feather, eagle, canary, birdhouse, birdbath, flight, owl, peacock, swan, stork, flamingo, raven, chicken, seagull, bird watching, penguin, falcon, robin, nestling, birdcage, mocking bird, and nest.

Instead of a scavenger hunt, take your child on a "bird hunt." Go on a walk and have your child listen for bird sounds. Once you discover the sound, follow it to track down the bird. Talk about the types of birds you see. Are they in a nest? A birdbath?

For older children, play a game of 10 words. To play, each person writes 10 words that are associated with birds. Once everyone completes their list, share them. Whenever your child encounters a word they don't know, use it as a teaching moment.



Parent Strategies



- Whether it is an angry bird or Tweety Bird, birds are surprisingly all around us. Play a game of "Is this a bird?" with your child. Say the name of a famous bird character and have your child respond by either stating "yes" or "no." For example, "Is Woodstock a bird?" "Is the Road Runner a bird?" "Is Mickey Mouse a bird?"
- For older kids, look up various sports teams that have a bird team name or mascot. Look up the bird's characteristics and origins to learn why the team may have picked that particular bird. Examples include: Baltimore Ravens, Seattle Seahawks, Atlanta Falcons, Philadelphia Eagles, Pittsburgh Penguins, Arizona Cardinals, Baltimore Orioles, New Orleans Pelicans, and Anaheim Ducks

Read On!

- Are you My Mother?
By P.D. Eastman
- Mama Built a Little Nest
by Jennifer Ward
- Grandma Wishes by Julia Lobo
- Hooray for Birds by Lucy Cousins
- The Pigeon Has Feelings Too
by Mo Willems
- Birds by Kevin Henkes
- Make Way for Ducklings
by Robert McCloskey
- Fly High! Fly Low by Don Freeman



Supporting your child's literacy development

- Ask your child to answer this question. Would you rather be a bird or a fish? Choose one and tell me why? After your child can provide a justification for his or her choice, encourage your child to put ideas in written form.
- Create a set of "birdwatcher" flashcards this month. Using clip art find images of different types of birds. Cut-out the image of the bird and glue the image on the front of a blank 3 x 5 card. On the back of the card, encourage your child to label the type of the bird. Be creative! Identify different state birds. Hide the flashcards around your home. Let your birdwatcher collect the birds and name the birds.
- Draw a beak and bird feet. Let your child add features to create a bird. Post your drawings in a prominent area of your home. Encourage your child to create a set of bird drawings.



Let's Chat

- Go over sentence structures using location adverbs: **there**, **here**, **outside**, and **up**. These sentences describe where something happens. "The blackbirds are flying **up** the tree." "The cardinal is chirping **outside** the window." "The robin built a nest **there** on the roof."
- Make a list of "**what happens**" questions with your child and review the answers. "**What happens** when a bird runs out of food?" "**What happens** when a baby bird learns how to fly?" "**What happens** to birds when the weather gets cold?"
- For older kids, practice having them describe movies with bird titles by using sentences containing the structure "**be + about**." "Chicken Little' **is about** a chicken who thinks the sky is falling." "March of the Penguins' **is a documentary about** the lives of penguins." "The Mighty Ducks' **is a story about** a kid's hockey team."

Social Stars

- Look up bird videos on YouTube. Watch some videos with your child and make up stories, plot lines, and scripts about the scenario you are watching. Be creative, make a comedy or a drama. You can even perform this activity while going on a walk.
- When you are engaging in conversations with your child, if you are unable to understand them, encourage them to repeat themselves. Not only should your child repeat themselves, help them understand how to use a slower rate of speech, a higher vocal volume, and exaggerated speech.

