

# Come Talk With Me

Volume 4 • Issue 8 • Aug 2020



a monthly newsletter produced by

**USC Caruso Family Center  
for Childhood Communication**



## From Your Audiologist

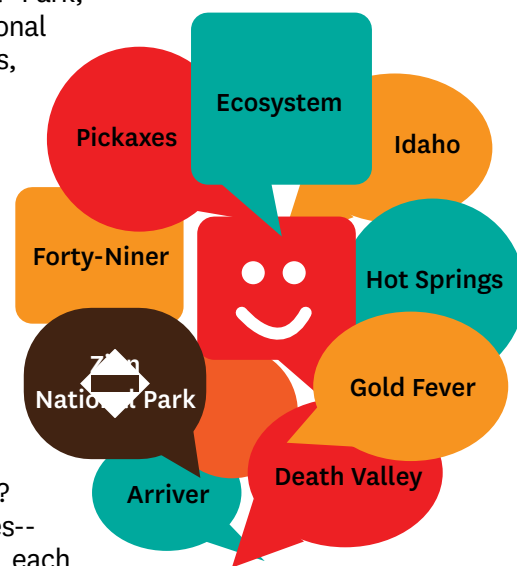
- Do you have missing equipment? Call your child's cochlear implant manufacturer to replace broken or missing parts as soon as possible. Because of the pandemic, allow more time for items to be shipped to your home.
- During this pandemic, school service support is limited. Make sure you perform daily sound checks to ensure your child's equipment is working properly.

## Words Matter

For the month of August, let's talk about the West and what makes California so unique. Let's gain understanding more about the region's national parks and the history of the Gold Rush. Vocabulary words to target for this month's theme are: Yosemite National Park, hot springs, California, Olympic National Park, ecosystem, Sequoia National Park, Geomorphology, Idaho, Joshua Tree National Park, resource, Death Valley, Wyoming, ecological, forest, Yellowstone National Park, Montana, desert, Zion National Park, redwood, Grand Canyon National Park, thermal spring, wilderness, Bryce Canyon National Park, gold rush, stamps, forty-niner, pans, mining, pickaxes, gold-bearing, arriver, gold fever, rockers, diggings, and golden state.

A great way to learn vocabulary is to grab some national park picture books and go on a scavenger hunt to find the national parks in the West. How many can you find? What are the unique features--such as animals and plants--in each park? Consider taking a virtual field trip by googling California destinations.

During the California Gold Rush, many different tools and techniques were used in the search for gold. On the computer, look up the various types of tools people used. What do they look like? How did the people use them?



## Parent Strategies



- Help your child understand the West Coast region. Using a map or an online map of the state, talk about the states that border the Pacific Ocean. Once your child understands how to look for the West Coast states, challenge them by having them find the East Coast states. Talk about the differences in the size and number of states on each coast.
- Did you know that businesses such as Wells Fargo and Levi-Strauss (blue jeans) were founded during the various gold rushes? There are still traces of this golden period all around us including the San Francisco NFL team named the 49ers. Have fun looking up and learning about the origins of these businesses and names.

# Read On!

- Southern California Monsters: A Search and Find Book by Anne Paradis
- C is for California by Trish Madson
- What was the Gold Rush? by Joan Holub
- All Aboard California by Hailey and Kevin Meyers
- Journey to the Sun: Junipero Serra's Dream and the Founding of California by Gregory Orfalea
- Redwoods by Jason Chin
- So Big! Yosemite by Melissa Iwai
- The Story of Elmer in Yosemite by Richard Barba



## Supporting your child's literacy development

- Have fun talking about 'what if' scenarios at home this summer. Discuss 'what if' we went to Disneyland and found the park closed for the day. Discuss what you would do. Encourage your child to be a storyteller. Create family characters. Draw a picture with your child. Encourage your child to describe how the family characters felt when they arrived at the closed theme park. Use descriptive words to embellish the story. Storytelling experiences give children ideas for writing.
- A simile is a direct comparison using the words like or as. Encourage your child to create similes to describe summer events. For example, "it was as hot as a day in Death Valley." "The water in the pool is as cold as ice." Write sentences using similes to describe family members, "Dad swam like a fish when we were at the pool today."
- Read a story together. Let your child choose a favorite book. Draw a favorite event from the story. Label as many items as you can in your child's drawing using print. This will support the development of written language.



## Let's Chat

- Have your child say sentences using the words "**with**" and "**without**." "I love hiking Yellowstone National Park **with** my family." "We can't go camping at Zion **without** a tent." "Miners looked for gold **with** pickaxes."
- Practice sentence structures with "**that's not...**" and "**it's not....**" "That's **not** a Pine tree, it's a Sequoia." "It's **not** a five minute drive to the Grand Canyon." "That's **not** a national park on the west coast."
- Teach your child to inquire by asking "**have**" questions. "Have you ever been to Yosemite National Park?" "Have you seen the General Sherman Tree at Sequoia National Park?" "Have you ever tried to climb El Capitan?"

# Social Stars

- For younger children, set up a gold rush "panning" scene for your child by using sugar, flour, or dried rice. Bury items such as dried beans or nuts for your child to find. Have family members help your child search for these items. Encourage your child to ask questions such as – "Did you find any nuts?" "How many beans did you find?" "Do you need help?"
- For older children, have them plan a "make-believe" trip to a National Park. Encourage your child to consider other family member interests by asking them what they want to do, see, and eat on their trip. Have your child create lists of food supplies, camping gear, activities, parks to consider, and places to visit in the park.

