

Come Talk With Me

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**USC Caruso Family Center
for Childhood Communication**



From Your Audiologist

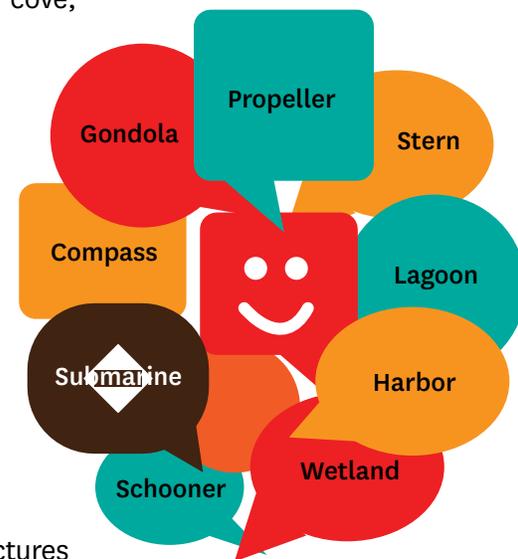
- As we think about water, now is a good time for you to experiment with your child's water resistant technology or accessories. Have fun talking about what they hear and how it sounds! If your child wears hearing aids or cochlear implants and you do not have a waterproof option, talk with your audiologist about your child's amplification's water resistance and how much water interaction your child can do with their amplification on.
- Make sure that you remember to do a daily listening check using the Ling 6 sounds to make sure they are hearing with each individual ear.

Words Matter

Ahoy Matey! In the month of July, let's sail away and explore all the different ways we can travel on water and talk about all the different bodies of water in the world. For this month's theme, vocabulary words to target are: ship, boat, submarine, trawler, sailboat, hovercraft, gondola, yacht, canoe, kayak, catamaran, barge, schooner, ferry, destroyer, battleship, row boat, paddle, anchor, compass, lighthouse, stern, bow, propeller, ocean, lagoon, pond, lake, sea, bay, harbor, gulf, cove, stream, river, and wetland.

For little ones, start by teaching them the vocabulary by looking up pictures of different types of boats and bodies of water on the computer. Then when it is bath time, take plastic bottles or cups and rename them a specific type of ship while you play in the tub. "This water bottle is now a submarine traveling under the sea."

For older kids, see if you have pictures from the beach or a past vacation where you can talk about different bodies of water your child has visited. Don't forget to point out the features that makes that body of water special. For example, "The Gulf of Mexico is a gulf because the water is surrounded by land."



Parent Strategies



- Immerse your teaching of boats and bodies of water by watching movies! From *Pirates of the Caribbean* to *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, there are fun ways you can learn without leaving your home. Ask your child if they can recall movies with boats. Your child could surprise you by talking about the boats in *Pocahontas*, *Tangled*, or *Moana*.
- Create different bodies of water in your own home. Use pillows and blankets to create outlines of the different shapes of water. For example, create the letter "S" with blankets. Pretend you are swimming in the letter "S" and state - "I'm swimming in a river!"

Read On!

- The Little Raindrop By Joanna Gray
- Water Up, Down, and All Around! By Natalie Rosinsky
- Jabari Jumps By Gaia Cornwell
- Lottie & Walter By Anna Walker
- Boats By Byron Barton
- Where do Speedboats Sleep at Night? By Bianna Caplan Sayres
- What was the Titanic? By Stephanie Sabol
- Time of Wonder by Robert McCloskey



Supporting your child's literacy development

- This summer it's especially important to consider that if your child does not read during the summer, he will likely lose skills. Summer reading loss is real. The best predictor of summer loss of skills or summer gain is reading. Strive to read six or more books this summer.
- Motivating your child to read this summer may be more challenging than during previous summers. Make sure that the books your child is selecting are not too difficult. Explore online reading websites (e.g., Tumblebooks, Storyline online, Oxford Owl reading online, and One More Story.) Read aloud and encourage vocabulary and word learning.
- To stimulate reading at home, keep different types of reading materials available. Word games, crossword puzzles, and magazines are great ways to motivate your child to read on! Check out recommended magazines for school-age children at the Colorin' Colorado website: <https://www.readingrockets.org/booklists/great-magazines-kids>
- Another way to continue reading this summer is through use of online apps that support story comprehension, vocabulary development, and understanding of grammar. Check out online reading apps this summer. A few of the popular apps include: Reading Comprehension, Rainbow Sentences, Kids Reading Comprehension Level 1, Sentence Builder, Story Builder, and Aseop's Quest for upper elementary readers.



Let's Chat

- It is important for your child to recognize and verbalize negative sentence structures. Have fun making "**That's not...**" and "**It's not...**" sentences with your child.
"That's not a bus. It's a ferry."
"It's not a watch. It's a compass."
"That's not an ocean. It's a giant lake!"
- Practice using irregular past forms (i.e. "drank," "swam," "drove," etc.) to discuss actions and activities you just completed. For example, "We **drank** some lemonade at my aunt's house." "We **swam** in the ocean all day." "My older sister **drove** the speed boat to Catalina."
- For older children, create sentences using adverb structures – "**instead of**" and "**rather than.**"
"**Instead of** driving across the bridge, let's take the kayak."
"**Rather than** using our hands to move the boat, let's use the paddles."

Social Stars

- For little kids, have them create a lighthouse with household items such as an empty paper towel holder and a flashlight. While you are making the lighthouse, talk about how you are going to decorate it and where you will put your lighthouse.
- For older children, take the time to review different water idioms and what they mean. Examples include – "A fish out of water," "In deep water," "In hot water," "Test the waters," "Keep your head above water," and "Water under the bridge." Once your child starts to understand these idioms, help them use them whenever an appropriate scenario arises.

