

Come Talk With Me

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**USC Caruso Family Center
for Childhood Communication**



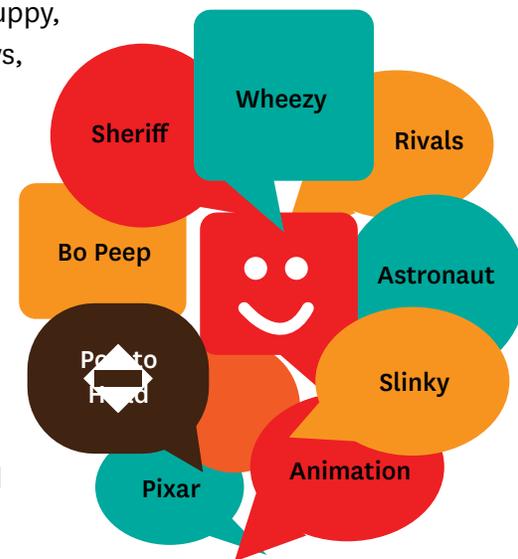
From Your Audiologist

- As your child is settling into their new school year, make sure they have extra batteries for their equipment. Review how to troubleshoot your child's listening technology and contact your audiologist if you have any questions.
- Is your child taking classes online? There are ways you can still use FM technology to help your child understand academic instruction, such as Bluetooth or mini mic. Contact your cochlear implant or hearing aid company, or audiologist to learn more or if you have questions.

Words Matter

In the month of September, we're going "to infinity and beyond!" That's right, we're going to build vocabulary through the character and themes in Toy Story. Words to target for this month's theme are: alive, Andy, animation, army men, astronaut, Barbie, Bo Peep, Bullseye, Buzz, claw, comedy, cowboy, doll, friends, Jesse, Hamm, Lightyear, moving, potato head, Pixar, puppy, Rex, rivals, sheriff, slinky, toys, Wheezy, Woody, and Zurg.

Teach your child the specific names of each toy. For example, all the doll toys have different names - Woody, Jesse, Buzz Lightyear, and Bo Peep. Also, the animals have special names like Bullseye, Rex, and Hamm.



For older children, teach them about how some of the Toy Story characters got their names. For example, Buzz Lightyear, got his name from combining the famous astronaut, Buzz Aldrin, with the unit of astronomical distance.

Parent Strategies



- For younger children, teach them parts of the body and function of body parts by playing with a Mr. Potato Head toy. If you don't have one, there are online resources where you can play with this beloved toy. For an extra challenge, assemble a head and leave off some parts to see if your child can identify what is missing.
- In Toy Story 2, the toys get involved in a car chase in a pizza truck. The dinosaur, Rex, helps Buzz Lightyear navigate the route of the car they are chasing. Have fun with your child by having them pretend they are Rex and direct you while you are driving. This is a great way of teaching them directional terms - right, left, straight, U-turn, reverse, etc.

Read On!

- Where's Woody?
By Kristen Depken
- Designing with Pixar: 45 activities to create your own characters, worlds, and stories
by Cooper Hewitt
- Animation Studio by Helen Piercy
- Dumbo by John Nichol
- Basil's Great Escapes (Disney's The Great Mouse Detective) by Walt Disney Company
- The Rescuers by Walt Disney Company
- Simba and Nala Help Bomo by Walt Disney Company
- Peter and the Star Catchers (Book One) by Dave Barry



Supporting your child's literacy development

- Many of this month's suggested book titles include strong characters which use problem solving skills to tackle many challenges. Practice problem solving at home. Create a problem-solving box. Place problems or issues that occur at home, during online learning, or at school. Brainstorm together possible solutions to these problems. Talk about the problem, talk about the solution, and then write solutions to problems from the problem-solving box.
- Place clues inside a container that describe a character from a book or a movie. Ask your child to listen to the clues. Have your child write down the name of the character that has been described. Ask your child to write a complete sentence that includes a description of the character. For example: Woody, the tall sheriff who is wearing a cowboy hat, is the first character we meet in the story.
- Create a dilemma bowl at home. Place dilemmas on a piece of folded paper in the bowl. Each family member removes one dilemma from the bowl. Write a solution to the dilemma selected. For example, I forgot to put some of the groceries in the refrigerator yesterday. What should I do? Discuss dilemmas and solutions during a family discussion.



Let's Chat

- In Toy Story 3, Woody makes a bathroom escape. You can watch this on YouTube. This scene is full of opportunities to have your child make sentences with prepositional terms such as – under, over, behind, on, toward, from, off, and down. For example – “Woody hides **under** the trash can.” “Woody runs **toward** the edge of the building.” “Woody flies **over** the playground.”
- In Toy Story 3, Woody lost his arm and he has to get it back. This scene is full of opportunities to have your child practice saying sentences that include adverbs ending in “-ly.” For example – “Woody **cautiously** walks around the Cheetos.” “Woody **carefully** climbs up the couch.”
- In Toy Story 3, the toys are stuck in a daycare where they learn the horrors of how other kids play with them. In this scene, have your child practice producing sentences with the quantitative concepts – “all of” and “some of.” Examples include – “**Some of** the toys hid from the children.” “**All of** the kids ran into the classroom.” “**Some of** the toys were broken.”

Social Stars

- In all of the Toy Story movies, the toys experience many different problems and adventures. Help your child come up with creative storylines with their own toys. Create a plot and give the toys dialogue. To make it even more exciting, capture a video of this playtime. This will surely get your child thinking more creatively about their toys and how they play with them.
- Everyone has a particular character in Toy Story that is their favorite. Engage in a conversation with your child where you discuss your favorite characters. Talk about what the characters look like and the funny things they say and do in the movies.

