

# Come Talk With Me

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**USC Caruso Family Center  
for Childhood Communication**



## From Your Audiologist

October is Audiology Awareness Month!

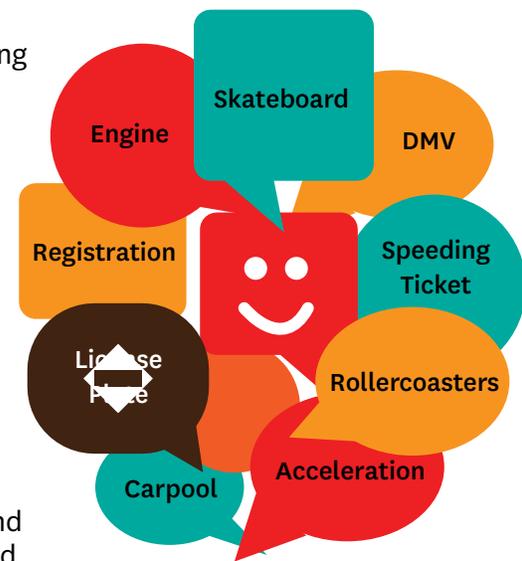
Remember to talk to your children about the need to protect the structures of their ears. Remind them to keep the volume down on the TV, radio and especially when using ear buds for their iPad or iPhone. If they are having trouble hearing, there may be a better solution than turning up the volume. Talk to your audiologist about it!

## Words Matter

In October, we tend to think about cooler weather, the falling of the leaves, pumpkins, candy, costumes, and all things Halloween. While we talk about these fun themes, we are also going to talk about how we move and objects that contain wheels. Words to target for this month's themes are: car, truck, van, SUV, train, airplane, motorcycle, bicycle, scooter, rollercoasters, RV, skateboard, school bus, roller skates, license plate, registration, acceleration, brake, gasoline, DMV, sidewalk, roads, driver's license, carpool, speeding ticket, mpg, engine, and keys.

Help teach your child the specific names of vehicles with wheels by playing "I Spy" when you are out driving. "I spy a truck that sells yummy ice cream." "I spy an RV with a picture of a tree on it." "I spy a car with a phone number written on it."

For older children, have them pretend they are getting a car and a driver's license. Have your child pick out which car they want and what they want written on their license plate. Help them understand the process of obtaining a driver's license and car registration at the DMV.



## Parent Strategies



- As you are discussing Halloween costumes with your younger child, talk about the vehicles that are associated with different characters. For example, if your child likes *Paw Patrol*, talk about the police cars they drive. Talk about the different types of cars in the Pixar movie *Cars*. Your child could also become a vehicle with wheels such as dressing like *Thomas the Train* or one of the planes from Pixar's movie *Planes*.
- For older children, make a list of forms of transportation they have used and have not used. Engage in conversation by talking about which one is their favorite and which vehicle they want to go on next. You could also talk about which one is the fastest or which one is the slowest. Finally, if this happened to you, talk about a time you got a speeding ticket.

# Read On!

- One More Wheel: A Things That Go Kid's Counting Book by Colleen Venable
- Wheels by Sally Sutton
- Things that Go by Richard Hefter
- Big Wheels by Anne Rockwell
- What do Wheels do All Day? by April Jones Prince
- The Wheels on the Dump Truck by Jeffrey Burton
- The Wheel on the School by Meindert DeJong
- Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom by Sue Macy



## Supporting your child's literacy development

- Children reading books need to develop an awareness of when they don't understand the text. Model for your child, "I read this paragraph. I don't understand the author's intended meaning. I'll read it a second time to gain a better understanding of the meaning." By modeling this behavior, you will be teaching your child that it is okay to show you what they don't understand. For example, model for your child, "I don't understand the meaning of the second paragraph on p. 15. Let's read it together to determine the meaning of the second paragraph." Release the responsibility to your child for showing you what he does not understand. Watch and wait for your child to indicate using the same phrase, "I don't understand the meaning of this paragraph. Can you read it with me to help me understand this paragraph?"
- Let your child know that if he's forgotten information it is okay to reread or to look back in the text to find the information. Encourage your child to find the information. If the information is found on a page, and your child cannot find the information. Use an index card to help your child track from left to right and top to bottom of the page to search for necessary information.
- Search for examples in stories of cause and effect. Ask your child to explain why an event happened. Most importantly, follow up and ask what the effects of this event included, "What happened?" Consider the children's story, "The Three Little Pigs." Ask your child why the house made of sticks collapsed when the wolf huffed and puffed. Then, ask your child what happened after he blew the house of sticks down? The pigs moved into the house made of bricks.



## Let's Chat

- Practice making negative sentence structures with your child that includes the words **couldn't** and **wouldn't**. For example, "A jack-o-lantern **couldn't** ride a motorcycle because he doesn't have arms or legs." "Batman **wouldn't** drive a truck, he has the Batmobile." "A witch **couldn't** drive if she doesn't have her license."
- Practice using sentences containing the words **with** and **without**. "Don't drive your car **without** your license." "Look at that costume **with** the scary mask." "Don't go trick-or-treating **without** a bag to carry your candy."
- Have your child ask questions with "**whose**." "**Whose** ghost costume is this?" "**Whose** car is this in the driveway?" "**Whose** candy did you take?"

## Social Stars

- Since this Halloween will look different this year, have your child create an alternative plan to celebrate the holiday. Have your child ask family members to pick out some movies, treats to bake, or plan an in-home Halloween fashion show.
- For older kids, play a game of "Guess Who" using different Halloween characters. Pick a set of ten characters and describe the different characters using only your words and not gestures. For example, "I'm thinking of a character who has a big nose and flies on a broom." "I'm thinking of a character that has two big ears, wears red pants, and has a dog named Pluto." "I'm thinking of a character who has ice powers and has blonde hair."

