

Come Talk With Me

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**USC Caruso Family Center
for Childhood Communication**



From Your Audiologist

To ensure the best fit, schedule an appointment to have new ear molds made every six months for your child.

For cochlear implant users, take an inventory of all of your extra device parts. Make sure you have extra cables, coils, rechargeable batteries and all selected accessories. Check if they are all working. If something is broken or missing, contact the manufacturer to request new ones. Contact your customer representative if you'd like an update or quick review of your child's technology.

If you have recently moved, contact your cochlear implant manufacturer to provide your new address so that newly ordered items are sent to the correct location.

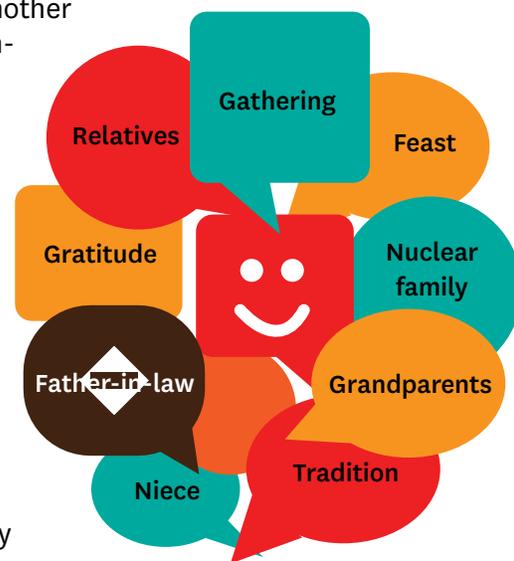
Words Matter

Thanksgiving may look and feel a little different this year. Although we may not be having our usual family gatherings, we can still talk about old memories and family members. This month let's talk about the holidays and our family tree. Help your child understand family relationships by targeting these words this month:

grandparents, parents, daughter, son, aunt, uncle, cousin, husband, wife, siblings, brother, sister, niece, nephew, mother or father-in-law, daughter or son-in-law, great-grandparents, foster family, nuclear family, half-brother or sister, relatives, gathering, family, sharing, feast, thankful, gratitude, and tradition.

For younger children, help them build their family vocabulary by drawing pictures of family members and labeling them with the new family vocabulary.

For older children, select a family member to talk about and all the family terminology that is related to that person. For example, if you decide to talk about mom, talk about how mom is a daughter, a wife, a sister, and a daughter-in-law.



Parent Strategies



- Take some time to look through family photos with your child. Point out to your child how family members are related to them. For example, Steven is your brother, Erin is your cousin, and Maria is your aunt.
- Google family tree templates and have fun with your child by making your own. This is a great opportunity to talk about your family history, memories, and traditions.

Read On!

- Bear Says Thanks! by Karma Wilson
- Ten Fat Turkeys by Tony Johnston
- The Pilgrim's First Thanksgiving by Ann McGovern
- Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving by Joseph Bruchac
- Junie B Jones Turkeys We Have Loved and Eaten by Barbara Park
- A Family is a Family by Sara O'Leary
- In Our Mothers' House by Patricia Polacco
- Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery



Supporting your child's literacy development

- Young writers need encouragement to write. This month encourage your child to write about feelings. Encourage your child to draw a picture of a family event. Talk about the feelings associated with the event. For example, draw a picture of an outdoor picnic at a local park. Talk about the feelings before you went to the park, during the picnic at the park, and after the picnic at the park. Encourage your child to add captions to the drawing that indicated how your child felt.
- Encourage your upper elementary or middle school student to write about feelings associated with a favorite place. What if the favorite place to visit was destroyed? How would your child feel? Write about the feelings associated with the loss of a favorite place. Make a list of actions, what you might do about the destruction of a favorite place? Would your child fight to protect a favorite place from being destroyed? Make connections to current and past events to extend your child's understanding.
- Encourage your child to read about Malala Yousafzai, a 15-year-old who advocated for girls' education. What did Malala write about? Why did she use writing to express her feelings? What lessons can be learned from Malala? Encourage your child to write a letter to Malala. Model writing a letter to Malala. Children learn from adult models. Model the 'think-aloud' strategy. "I'm thinking that I want to thank Malala for advocating for girls' education. I will start my letter by telling her who I am. I will tell her why I want to thank her."



Let's Chat

- For younger children, help them learn the quantitative concept of "**some**." Show and practice sentences such as – "I want **some** popcorn." "Give dad **some** marshmallows." "The puppy wants **some** pumpkin treats."
- Help your child form sentences using the third person singular present tense, "**-s**," in sentences. This is a great way to practice the "s" phoneme sound at the end of words. Examples of the third person singular tense are – "Grandpa **sleeps** on the couch every Thanksgiving." "My niece **makes** me play with clay every time I see her." "Her husband **makes** the best brownies."
- For advanced learners, practice present perfect progressive sentences - "**have/has been + verb-ing**." "Mom **has been cooking** Thanksgiving dinner for the past 5 days." "My cousins **have been planning** to watch the football game." "Uncle Louie **has been saving** up money to buy Ellie a nice gift."

Social Stars

- This past year has been hard on us. No matter how big or small your Thanksgiving table is, talk to your child about what he or she is grateful for. Encourage other family members to join this conversation. A conversation like this will certainly boost the mood over these difficult times.
- Play a game of "Guess Who" using the family member vocabulary. For example – "Guess who your cousin is?" "Guess who mommy's sister is?" "Guess who daddy's uncle is?" You can incorporate pictures by having your child point to the people if they don't know the person's name.

