

articulation (speech) SKILLS

HOME PRACTICE

Point out words that have your child's sound

- While reading books, watching TV/movies, or even when driving in the car, you can have your child find words/items that have their sound. Then, have them practice saying the sound 3 times.

Play games

- Have your child practice sounds while playing word games! You can play word games like: "I'm going to space and I'm bringing..." . During this game, each person says something they are bringing and everyone has to list what the people before them said, then add on their own word. When you play, you can only come up with items that have your child's speech sound! (For example: "I'm going to space and I'm bringing... a sandwich, sunglasses and berries")
- Have your child practice their best speech while playing non-speech related games like cards or board games. You can remind them at the beginning of the activity to use their "best speech" when they talk during the game!

Use Apps & Websites

- *Articulation Station* is an app for iPad or Android that all my speech students are familiar with. Download their sounds and practice their sounds with flashcards, memory games, silly sentences and stories!
- *Mommy Speech Therapy* is a website with free worksheets for all speech sounds!

Have your child use their "best speech" during every day activities

- Encourage your child to practice their speech for just 5 minutes each day during every day activities (driving in the car, meal times, telling you about their day, etc.) Just prompt them by saying, "Okay now for the next 5 minutes you can tell me about your camping trip... but use your best speech while you tell me!"

LaNGuaGe SKuLLS

HOME PRactice

Read simple books at or below your child's reading level

- Do a picture walk through the book before reading (if it is a picture book) or make guesses about what you think may happen before even reading
- Discuss words that come up that they may not know
- Ask “who”, “what”, “where”, “why” and “when” questions during & after
- Help your child retell the story (or chapter) in a simple way afterward. You can even provide a visual on an index card to remind them to simply identify “First, Next & Last” events

Play describing & category games

- Practice describing nouns with each other by listing 3-4 features of the noun and seeing if the other person can guess it (For example, you might say: this is an animal, it purrs, it chases mice. Your child would guess: Is it a cat?) Trade off naming the features and guessing!
- Practice listing items in a category and see who can come up with the most (For example, you might say: “Let’s name everything we can think of that is a fruit!” You and your child would take turns naming items)

Talk to your child about events that are coming up or have already happened

- Discuss WH concepts (who, what, where, when, why) regarding these events
- Help your child retell the event by first modeling and then supporting “First, Next & Last” language

Always define new words

- If a word comes up that your child may not know, ask them what they think it may be. Then, define the word and give them examples.

Narrate your day

- Children learn language most when it is modeled for them. As you go about your day, narrate some of the things you are doing. (For example, while cooking you could say: “Well, I’m going to make some scrambled eggs. First, I need to get the eggs and a bowl. Next, I’ll crack the eggs. I have to make sure I don’t get shells in the bowl.... etc.”)

Social SKILLS

HOME PRACTICE

Use simple books to target pragmatic language

- Do a picture walk through the book before reading (if it is a picture book) to make guesses about what you think may happen
- Discuss how characters in the book may feel
- Ask “why” questions during and after
- Help your child infer information (for example, if the character is crying because they miss their Mom, your child may not know exactly why the character is upset because it may not be explicitly said. Help them use the clues to understand why something is happening)
- Help your child make logical guesses about what might happen next
- Help your child come up with logical solutions to presented problems

Practice turn-taking, maintaining engagement with a group/others

- Play card and board games together/with siblings or friends
- Discuss a preferred topic together/with siblings or friends
- Build something together/with siblings or friends

Prepare your child for an upcoming event

- Discuss where you’ll be going, for how long and who will be there
- Talk about how they feel and why
- Talk about strategies that can be used when they encounter a problem or feel worried

Reflect on events

- Reflect on social events together
- Discuss expected and unexpected behavior exhibited by you, your child and others
- Discuss any problems and how they were solved. Could they be solved in a different way?
- Talk about strategies that can be used in the future

PLAY!!!!!!

- Give your child ample opportunities to engage in cooperative play activities with other children, such as: building with blocks, imaginary play, gross motor play outside, dress up, dancing, singing, board games, etc. Limit screen time (TV, iPads, computer).