

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

IDEAS

By: Heather Bates, SLP

- 1.) **Read, read, read** to your child. Ask him/her questions about what happened or what they think may happen next. Have your child retell the story in his/her own words and make connections to their lives.
- 2.) **Talk, talk, talk** to your child. Attempt to elicit longer responses from your child by asking "Why do you think that happened?" or stating "Tell me about your day." Limit screen time and use of electronics and opt for family games in order to elicit more conversations.
- 3.) Always expose your child to new, higher level vocabulary. For instance, instead of talking about birds or flowers use specific names for them such as "cardinal, robin" or "tulip, daffodil". Also talk about parts to objects such as "wing, claw, beak" or "petal, stem, roots".
- 4.) Play games with your child. Some good language based games are: Outburst Jr., Scategories Jr., Headbanz, Password Jr., Pictionary Jr., 20 Questions Jr., Picture Links (modify it to give clues). Basically any game that gets your child talking, describing, naming, grouping, or making associations would be beneficial for developing language skills.
- 5.) Have your child set the table following your verbal directions (i.e. put the fork on the left of the plate, put the napkin under the cup, etc.)
- 6.) Take your child grocery shopping and have them pick out a fruit, vegetable, drink (beverage), dairy product, meat, etc. Discuss what food group each item you buy belongs to (apple-fruit, cheese-dairy).
- 7.) Play "Simon Says" to develop listening skills, following directions, and body part awareness.
- 8.) Play concentration (memory) games with your child. Have them match letters, numbers, cards with the same number of items, shapes, front/back of objects, etc.
- 9.) Bake or cook with your child. Work on following directions, measuring, vocabulary, and concept development. Concepts that could be addressed are more, less, same, first, next, some, before, after, etc.
- 10.) Work on sequencing tasks. Have your child tell you in order how they brush their teeth, make a sandwich, make their bed, wash their hands, etc. Have them use sequencing vocabulary (1st, next, then, last). See if they can use the words before/after when telling when they do a specific task.
- 11.) Hide different objects around the house. Give your child directions on how to get to a given item. Work on directional concepts such as forward, backward, left, right, next to, beside, between, near, etc. Then have your child tell you where he/she found the item (in the box, under the table, next to the dishes, etc.) to work on positional concepts.
- 12.) Have a scavenger hunt with your child to work on the development of descriptive concepts. Have them find items that are hot, cold, dry, wet, smooth, rough, soft, hard, new, old, red, blue, etc.
- 12.) Play "I Spy" with your child. Find an object in the room and use a descriptive word to have your child try to guess what you spy (i.e. I spy something round (clock) or I spy something soft (blanket), etc.).
- 13.) Play word association - say a word to your child then have him/her say a word that is related to the word given (cat-dog). They then have to state how the words are related (They are both pets). Then take the new word and come up with a word that is related to that word (dog-bone) and state how they are related (A dog eats a bone.). Keep repeating (bone-skeleton...A skeleton is made up of bones.).

*****The important thing to remember is that every conversation, game, activity you do with your child can be a rich, language learning experience.*****

SPEECH SOUND CARRYOVER

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By: Heather Bates, SLP

- 1.) Always model good speech (and language) skills for your child. When your child is ready, encourage him/her to use their target sound when they are speaking with you.
- 2.) **Read, read, read** to your child. While monitoring their speech, ask him/her questions about what happened or what they think may happen next. Have your child retell the story in his/her own words and make connections to their lives. Try to ask questions that require your child to use his/her target sound in the answer.
- 3.) Play the "I Spy" Game with your child but have your child find items that contain his/her target sound (i.e. I spy something that begins with the /s/ sound and you wear it on your foot - sock).
- 4.) Play a category game with your child in which he/she must name an item in a given category that begins with his/her target sound (i.e. Name a fruit that begins with /s/). Focus on sounds not letters!
- 5.) Word of the Day - pick a word for the day that contains your child's target sound. Throughout the day ask your child to recall the Word of the Day and use it in a different sentence each time.
- 6.) Play "Headbanz" with your child but have the pictures/words that are in placed in the headband contain your child's target sound. To play this game describe a picture in order to have your child guess what it is. You can place the picture in a "headband" or just face down in front of them so they can't see it.
- 7.) Make a sound collage with your child. Find pictures in magazine that contain your child's target sound. Cut them out and glue them on a sheet of paper. Throughout the week have your child name the pictures in his/her collage and use them in a sentence.
- 8.) Make a sound book with your child. Find pictures in magazines that contain your child's target sound. Cut them out and glue them into a book. Then write a short sentence about each picture. Have your child "read" the book daily to practice production of their target sound.
- 9.) Play concentration (memory) games with your child. Have them match pictures that contain his/her target sound. When he/she finds a match have him/her use the given word in a sentence.
- 10.) Play "Go Fish" with your child using cards that contain their target sound. When he/she gets a match have them use the given word in a sentence.
- 11.) Play "Can you Remember" with your child. Place 2-4 pictures (containing your child's target sound) down on the table and have your child say them over and over using correct sound production until they can remember them. Then have him/her close his/her eyes while you remove 1 or more of the pictures. When your child opens his/her eyes see if they can recall the picture(s) that was taken.
- 12.) Have a scavenger hunt with your child. Have them find items that contain their target sound. They must say what they found (and where) in a complete sentence (i.e. I found a fork in the kitchen drawer.).
12. Play Hide and Go Seek - use pictures cards with the targeted sound and hide them around the room while your child is not looking. Have them find the picture and tell you where they found the picture using the target sound correctly (i.e. I found the "sun" under the chair.) or have them use the word in a sentence.

****Daily practice of sounds is imperative to aid in the carryover of target sounds. Parental involvement is key to successful generalization of target sounds into conversational speech.**

Please practice with your child daily!**

LANGUAGE IDEAS FOR TRAVELING

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1. **Play "I Spy"** - give your child an item to look for along the way. You can tell them the exact item or tell them to look for something that starts with a given letter or the rhymes with a word. When they find it they give the next item.
2. **Mystery Word** - work on sound blending - have your child guess the "mystery word" by blending the sounds you give them. Start with 3 sound words and progress to 4 when they get better (c-a-t, d-i-sh, b-u-s, c-r-a-b)
3. **What does the word mean** - give your child a word you think would be challenging for him/her and see if they can tell you what it means or describe it for you (i.e. peel, blizzard, caboose, etc.). They must tell you the meaning without using the word (i.e. Peel is to take the skin of a something like a banana or caboose is the last car of a train.).
4. **Category Recall game** - give your child a category and see how many items they can name in the category (i.e. things that are cold, winter clothing, zoo animals, etc).
5. **Category game** - give your child a category and see how items they can name in the given category.
6. **Left or Right** - Car rides are a great time to work on left/right - see if they can tell you the direction you turn.
7. **Memory Blast** - give your child a number of words, letters, numbers, or a sentence. See if they can repeat them back to you. Start off easy but as they get better make them longer and more difficult.
8. **I Am Going On A Vacation** - a great game for memory and letter-sound relationship. Start with "a" and name something you are going to bring on vacation such as "alligator". The next person needs to repeat yours and name something they will bring that starts with the letter "b". Keep going until someone forgets an item or can't think of an item to bring.
9. **Letter Find** - Start with "a" and find each letter of the alphabet on signs along the way.
10. **Sound Find** - This is good to play with younger kids just beginning to learn letters. Have them find items that beginning with the sound you give them. Focus on sounds not letter names for this game.
11. **20 Questions Easy Version** - think of an item. See if your child can guess the item by asking any type of question (i.e. Where do you find it?, What does it do?, Who uses it?).
12. **20 Questions Hard Version** - think of an item. See if your child can guess the item by asking yes/no questions (i.e. Is it animal?, Is it alive?, Do you eat it?).
13. **What Am I?** - give your child a description of an item and see if they can guess what it is (i.e. I am thinking of a vehicle that flies in the sky and has a propeller on top of it - helicopter).
14. **Who Am I?** - Give your child clues to a person. See if they can guess the person based on the clues you give (i.e. I live in the White House. I am president of the USA. Who am I?).
15. **When is it?** - Give your child clues to a time. See if they can guess the time based on the clues you give (i.e. This is when Santa comes to your house and brings you presents. When is it?).

****Car rides are a great time to talk with your kids. The time will go by faster and you can work on many different language based skills. ****

GAMES TO PROMOTE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

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1. **OUTBURST JUNIOR**- this game helps to develop understanding of word relationships through categorization. In addition, it helps with retrieval and recall of words in a specific category. In it you are given a category and must name all the items you can think of that belong in that category within the time limit.
2. **TRIBOND KIDS** - this game also helps with developing a better understanding of word relationships. In it you are given 3 words and you must decide how the given words are related.
3. **HEADBANZ** - this game helps to develop questioning skills in young children. To play this game, you are given a picture you can't see but you must ask yes/no questions in order to get information to help guess your mystery item. You can also play a version in which you don't have to ask questions but the other players give you clues, which works on their language skills!
4. **PICTURE LINKS** - this game works on improved vocabulary. In it you have to get a path from one side of the board to the other by naming specific pictures. You can add a language component to the game, in which instead of labeling the pictures, a description of the picture is needed and then a token can be put on the described picture.
5. **3 FOR ME** - this is another game to help develop understanding of word relationships. In it you have to find 3 pictures from the pile that could go together and explain the relationship. You then add the points on each picture to get your total for your turn.
6. **GUESS WHO** - this game is good for asking questions and for deductive thinking. You have to determine your opponent's pictures through asking questions and eliminating people that don't match the description.
7. **CHARADES FOR KIDS** - this game is good for developing non-verbal skills. Kids have to act out the given item without using words in order to have others guess what the item is.
8. **MELISSA AND DOUG PUPPY PURSUIT** - this game is great for developing understanding and use of spatial concepts needed for academic success. Kids have to hide and find puppies in various locations throughout the house.
9. **SCAVENGER HUNT FOR KIDS** - this game is good for developing describing skills. In it your child has to search for items in the house to match the description given (i.e. Find something round.) and race back with all the items to beat their opponents. A great aspect of this game is that you earn points for putting all your items away the fastest at the end of the game!
10. **APPLES TO APPLES** - there are many versions of this game. The picture version is great for kids. This game works on improving vocabulary and use of descriptors. In addition, it works on improving understanding of how others may think! Great for developing social skills.
11. **5 SECOND RULE** - This game works on naming items in a given category in short amount of time. Great for working on categorization skills.
12. **YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING** - this game is a game of "would you rather". Great for working on reasoning skills and answering "why" questions by stating a reason.

****THESE ARE JUST A FEW! THERE A SO MANY FUN GAMES TO PLAY AS A FAMILY TO PROMOTE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SKILLS. LIMIT SCREEN TIME AND PLAY GAMES AS A FAMILY!**