

NON-TECHNOLOGICAL IDEAS TO FOSTER SPEECH-LANGUAGE GROWTH AT HOME

Below are a few ideas that you and your student can engage in that do not require the use of technology. These activities and strategies help create a communication rich environment!

Take a Nature Walk!

- Go for a walk in a park, around your home, or even go to your own yard.
 - Each parent/child collects items and then describes what they found.
 - What color, shape, size? What does it do?
 - Targets: Opportunity for language modeling by older sibling or adult.
 - Targets: Language expansion and extension
 - Play I-Spy while outside.
 - Targets: visual scanning and critical thinking skills
 - Targets: language expansion and extension
 - Targets: Speech Sounds (“I spy something that has a ‘s’ sound”)
 - Targets: Speech sounds at the sentence level
 - Hide & Seek Toys. Hide an item in the yard. Give 1 or 2 step directions to help find the items if needed.
 - Targets: Spatial Concepts like prepositions: under, next to, on, etc.
 - Targets: “wh” questions: where, what
 - Targets: Following Directions

Bake something! Anything!

- Simple recipes or complex recipes depending on your child’s age.
 - For young children, simply talking while you are baking with them exposes them to new functional vocabulary.
 - Targets: Sequences and Time Concepts (first, then, next)
 - Targets: Opportunity for language modeling by older sibling or adult.
 - Targets: Following directions
 - Targets: Language expansion and extension.
 - Targets: Descriptive language (color, taste, textures)
 - Have your child help with clean up!
 - Targets: Language expansion (water, soap, dishes, etc.)
 - Targets: Following directions (first, then, last)

Paint, draw, color!

- In addition to good fine motor practice, making art provides a way to elicit conversations with your child.
 - Create your own story book with paper and crayons/markers/pencils
 - Targets: Language organization
 - Targets: Sequencing of activities/events
 - Targets: ‘wh’ questions and recall
 - Targets: open ended conversation about the art, story, coloring page.

Read a Book, but take your time!

- While reading, take time to ask questions about the pictures on each of the pages, the characters, what will happen next, etc.
- Read the same book more than once to increase exposure to vocabulary words, rhyming words.
 - Targets: “wh” questions (who, where, what, when, how, why)
 - Targets: Making predictions and inferences (what will happen next? How do you know that? Are there any clues?)
 - Targets: Language expansion and extension
 - Targets: Speech sounds – identify the words in the book with a sound and practice that word or sound as you read the book.
 - Targets: Reading comprehension

Play a board game or card game:

- Board games/card games provide unlimited ways to practice social language skills.
 - Have your child read the instructions or explain how to play the game to other siblings/adults.
 - Targets: turn-taking
 - Targets: social skills
 - Targets: following directions
 - Targets: speech sounds (Practice your speech sounds on your turn)

Compare and Contrast:

- Find 2-3 items around the house (or outside), or have your child find 2-3 items.
 - Compare the items – how are they the same? How are they different?
 - Targets: Categorization
 - Targets: Language Organization
 - Targets: Vocabulary
 - Targets: Descriptive Language (color, shape, size, function, etc.)

Scavenger Hunt:

- Provide a list of 5-10 items (depending on age) that meet a specific criteria:
 - For Articulation Practice: Find 5 things around the house that: have /r/, /s/, etc.
 - For Language Practice: Find 5 things around the house that: feel bumpy, are blue, are small, etc.
 - Targets: Language Expansion and Extension
 - Targets: Speech Sounds
 - Targets: Following directions
 - Targets: Categorization & Compare/Contrast