

# Speech & Language

## Early Childhood Communication Newsletter

### Try this Activity

**Bubbles** are one of an SLP's favorite toys. Try these different ways to encourage communication when playing with bubbles.

- Show your child how to blow through the wand. Coordinating all the steps to blow bubbles encourages motor planning skills.
- Blow the bubbles a few times then close the lid and stop. Wait for your child to respond! Encourage and model the appropriate ways to ask for more.
- Bubbles are great for producing early developing lip sounds. "pop!" "blow!" "bubbles!"

### Book Nook

The Big Book of Exclamations  
by Teri Kaminski Peterson, M.A. CCC-SLP

An interactive book featuring different 'scenes' present through a child's day including wake up time, snack and bath time. Each scene models appropriate language to use during the activity. You can find this book on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or at [chatterboxbooks.com](http://chatterboxbooks.com)

### Focus on... Communication

Communication comes in many different flavors and, especially for a late talking little one, it's important to focus on multiple modalities. Building a strong pre-verbal foundation will make the transition to verbal communication that much smoother when your child is ready to talk. Here are some ideas for trying different methods of communication:

**Gestures** are an invaluable tool. Encourage your child to *point* to desired items as often as possible. Giving options of two items promotes pointing. Basic signs, such as 'more,' 'all done' and 'give me' can speak volumes. Ask your SLP for a tutorial on how to use these signs.

**Visuals** are an excellent way to build your child's language skills. Photographs or symbols of your child's favorite snacks, toys and activities allow them to make choices and communicate with greater independence. Visuals also help build language skills even when verbal output is lacking.

**Eye Contact** is an important tool for any communicator. Encourage your child to look at you when requesting or sharing an item. A 3 point gaze shift (e.g. looking at an object, at the adult and back to the object) is a good alternative means of communicating when words are limited.

### Strategy of the Month: Modeling

Modeling is doing or saying what you would like your child to do or say in a certain situation. It sounds so simple, yet modeling is one of the most effective strategies in an SLP's toolbox. Model during...

Play—label the toys your child is playing with. Self-talk about the activity you are doing, "put the blocks on top" "the car goes vroom!"

Snack—model requesting more food, "I want more please."

Frustrations—model appropriate ways to express frustration, "I'm mad."



# Klamath Early Childhood Intervention Newsletter

## **Teachable Moments at the Grocery Store**

All parents know that a trip to the grocery store with a little one can be a struggle. However, when we involve our child in our shopping, and work to keep him engaged as we walk the aisles, what used to be a stressful experience evolves into something not only bearable, but educational.

The grocery store is a great place to help your child practice literacy and math skills. The next time your little learner starts to fuss at the grocery store, try the Count It Out idea below. Not only will your child stay busy and feel involved, he/she will be learning!

## **Count It Out**

The grocery store is a great place to help your child practice counting and one-to-one correspondence. As you shop, ask your child to help you grab the correct number of items needed. Ask, "Harry, can you put seven oranges in the bag for me?" Then, help your child count aloud as he places the oranges into the bag.

## **VROOM Tip!**

Does your child have a favorite story you tell him/her or song that you sing? When he/she does, play "Missing Word." Tell the story or sing the song and leave out one of the words like, "Row, row, row your \_\_\_\_\_?" Can your child fill in the missing word?

**Brainy Background:**

"Missing Word" helps your child pay attention to what you are saying and it builds his/her vocabulary and working memory. You can make the game more complex by leaving out a word in the middle of the sentence or song, not just the last word.

Looking for more ways to help your child learn and grow? Take a look at the Daily Vroom app, and get tips like these customized for you and your child! <http://bit.ly/JoinVroom>

## **Dates to Remember!**

- January 15<sup>th</sup>- No School
- February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>- Klamath Falls City Schools Conferences
- February 16<sup>th</sup>- ECI Staff Furlough Day

