

Dear Parents and Family,

Please be assured that as your child is home during this school closure there are still many things that you can do to promote his or her communication skills. Below are some helpful activities to promote communication development. Any or all of these activities will be beneficial and also hopefully fun!

[Language homework calendar](#)

Expressive Language and Receptive Language

- Books are a great way to elicit expressive language in children. The important thing to remember when reading books with your child is to ask OPEN ENDED questions. This takes some practice but the best way to help children talk more is to ask them a question where they generate their own answers. For example, “what is she doing?” “How is he feeling?” “What’s happening in this picture?”. These are open ended questions versus yes or no questions or questions with one word answers.
- “I Spy” is a great way to work on describing skills and critical thinking skills. Remind your child to describe the most important aspects of the item and also consider size, shape, color, use
- Board games such as Hedbanz, Taboo, Guess Who, Scattergories, and Apples to Apples provide opportunities for children to use expressive language skills.
- Have your child draw a picture and talk about what they are drawing to target expressive language skills such as describing, vocabulary, grammar, etc. For receptive language, have them follow directions with attributes such as color, shape, size and location. (e.g. Draw a RED flower UNDER the tree)
- Set a timer and see how many rhyming words or word associations you can come up with before the timer goes off.
- Word Retrieval Activity One: Fill in the Blank Associations

Have Your child fill in the blank with common phrases and sentences. This will teach Your child to use other words in the sentence or phrase to trigger the word he wants to get to. Here are some examples of fill in the blank associations you can use with Your child. Try these while you’re riding in the car or waiting in line somewhere.

- A pair of _____
- Peanut butter and _____

- Close the _____
 - The elephants live in the _____
 - Head, shoulders, knees, and _____
- Word Retrieval Activity 2: Rapid Naming from Categories

Have Your child list as many things as possible from a certain category. For example, have Your child list as many foods as she can or as many clothes. You could write down how many she thought of each time so she can see the progress she makes as she does this activity more and more.

- Word Retrieval Activity 3: Providing a Word from a Definition

Define a word for Your child and see if she can guess what it is. For example, you could say “it’s a red fruit that is juice and sweet and sometimes comes in green and yellow” and see how long or how many cues it takes for Your child to guess apple. You can switch this around and have Your child define a word for you as well.

- Word Retrieval Activity 4: List Things Needed to Complete a Task

Tell Your child the name of a task and ask her to tell you all of the things she would need to complete that task. For example, if the task is swimming, Your child could say “goggles, swimsuit, floaties, innertube, pool toys, towel”.

- Word Retrieval Activity 5: Finish Similes

A simile is when you say that something is _____ as a _____. Provide the descriptive word for Your child and have her finish the simile. For example, you could say “sticky as a _____” and your child might fill in “peanut butter sandwich”.

- Word Retrieval Activity 6: Antonyms and Synonyms

Tell Your child a word and have her come up with one synonym (a word that means the same thing) and one antonym (a word that means the opposite).

- Read books and ask Wh-questions, who, what, where, when, why. Ask your child to make a prediction or an inference. Reading books out loud also models long, complex grammar and sophisticated vocabulary.

Articulation

[Articulation homework calendar](#)

Pragmatic Language.

- Board games (to work on turn-taking, waiting, social language, good sportsmanship)
- Card games (Go Fish, Uno, etc)
- Role Play social situations with your child such as asking a friend to play at recess, giving a gift, visiting family members, going to a store
- Practice greetings and using polite requests
- Have conversations throughout the day. Encourage your child to ask on topic questions or make a related comment. See if you and your child can keep the conversation going for up to 4 turns!
- Play “Guess that Emotion” with your child and have them identify which emotion you are demonstrating. Have them come up with real-life situations or instances where they experience each emotion.

Websites:

Starfall (early literacy games)

www.starfall.com

Storyline Online (story read-alouds)

www.storylineonline.net

Epic Books (digital library for children 12 and under)

<https://www.getepic.com/>

Gives access to free speech and language worksheets, games and flash cards to target vocabulary, following directions, etc.

<https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/11-free-speech-therapy-materials/>

Website that provides suggestions for speech and language apps for the IPAD

<https://www.teachthought.com/technology/31-speech-and-language-apps-for-ipad/>

Various speech and language games to address receptive/expressive language and articulation. Please refine by subcategory to access activities for articulation, fluency, comprehension, etc.

https://www.quia.com/shared/speech_therapy/