



Bailey's Talking Points



March Issue 2020

A message from Mrs. Bailey, Speech Therapist

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

I will continue to support you and your child/children as their Speech Therapist. In this issue, I will provide you with some ideas to continue speech and language development at home. I hope all of you will remain safe and look forward to the day when we can return to Hidden Valley Elementary School.

Tips for parents to support speech/language development adapted from Collaboration Corner

The theme continues to be ***collaboration***.

Parents/caregivers are our biggest asset in promoting speech/language development in children. Here are some ideas of what you can do to continue to support your child's speech/language skills in the absence of a structured day. These ideas are in no particular order of importance.

1. Pay attention to body language, when a child is looking toward or reaching for something, they are communicating. Talk about what they are reaching for, "Oh, you want the bubbles!"
2. Avoid the "say this" tendency. Don't pressure the child to speak; keeping the experience positive is important. Instead, model what the child might say when he/she is ready.
3. Take time to sit and read with your child every day. Label everything you see and encourage them to point to the words and pictures as you talk about them. Books with repetitive lines are great.
4. Be playful. Sing songs. Use lots of inflection. With familiar songs, leave some of the words out and see if your child will hum or sing the words.

5. Provide limited choices when you aren't sure what your child wants. Holding out 2 items, lessens the stress of having too many choices.
6. Talk with your child about what you are doing, then provide the opportunity for your child to reciprocate. "I'm making cookies, do you want to help?"
7. Use first/then language to guide behavior and then be consistent. "First you read your book, then you can play." Use this language even when moving between activities that are preferred or less preferred.
8. Use pictures from magazines, comic strips, books, etc., to sequence event, retell stories and talk about what is coming up next, along with the actions in the pictures ("he is jumping, she is walking.").
9. Language is everywhere. Use car rides to identify and talk about environmental print (restaurant signs, street signs and names, etc.), walks outside, blowing bubbles to describe what you see and ask questions. ("I see a cow. What does a cow say?")
10. If your child is having trouble with "bumpy" speech, encourage him/her to slow down or to ease into speech.
11. With articulation, continue to model correct production of the sound. Periodically, have him/her to imitate correct production.

Quote of the Month

"Children are the priority.
Change is the reality.
Collaboration is the strategy."

- Justin B., State of Washington Superintendent

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