



WORK ON SPEECH AND LANGUAGE IN THE CAR

You and your child spend a lot of time in the car, driving to/from school and extracurricular activities. Did you know that the car is a perfect place to practice those speech and language targets your child is working on at school?

ARTICULATION

- Practice sounds with words you or your child think of or from a target sound sheet you carry in the car.
- Play “I Spy” and have your child guess or name all things that include his/her targeted speech sounds.
- Have a conversation with your child and listen for carryover or areas that need to be addressed.
- Pick words with your child’s speech sounds and have them create funny sentences.

LANGUAGE

- Play “I Spy” and have you or your child describe an object (e.g., color, size, function, category) with the other person guessing what the object is.
- Pick a category and have your child name as many items as possible from that category.
- Take turns identifying things outside using complete utterances such as “I see . . .” or “She is . . .”
- Have a conversation with your child, identify any incorrect grammar use, and model or explain correct forms.
- Play a word association game where each person takes turns naming words that are synonyms or antonyms of target vocabulary.
- Pick two items seen from the car and have your child compare and contrast them.

FLUENCY

- Speak with your child about his/her day or about one of their favorite topics, modeling slow rate of speech and providing interrupted time for your child to speak.
- Have an open and supportive conversation with your child about any difficult stuttering moments they’ve had.
- Listen for stuttered moments and provide guidance for smooth speech.
- Play “I Spy” or any games promoting speaking and allow your child to get his/her thoughts out without interruption.

PRAGMATICS

- Practice conversational volleys (i.e., take turns asking questions and making comments).
- Pick a topic and practice topic maintenance with your child.
- Role play scenarios with your child (e.g., talking with a friend, talking with a stranger).
- Talk about any difficult social situations your child recently had and problem-solve the situation together.