

{ School is not in session...
How can my child work on his/her speech & language skills? }

If your child is working on speech sounds...

First,



School is not in session...

How can my child work on his/her speech & language skills?

If your child is working on language skills...

(Exact language skills targeted in your child's IEP will vary, but may include things like increasing overall understanding & use of vocabulary words, answering & asking WH questions, understanding how items go together in categories, understanding how two things are similar and different, using correct verb tenses, expanding the length of sentences, describing, and more.)

PLAY

Many language skills can be targeted through playing together with an adult! Choose an activity such as Lego blocks, Play-doh, catch, dinosaurs, or action figures, and follow your child's lead. Have your characters interact & talk with each other, narrate aloud what you are doing or creating, or sort things into groups that are alike (ex: all the big dinosaurs, or all the red pieces).

When interacting with each other, model full sentences and expand on what your child says (add 1-2 words).

Child: "Her can fly."

Adult: "Yes, she can fly fast!"

Child: "Here a cookie."

Adult: "That is a big cookie! Can you make a small cookie too?"

Child: "Here!"

Adult

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If your child is working on language skills...

Choose a book to read together; consider reading one chapter or section at a time. As you read, or after you finish a section, talk about things like:

- Who is the main character? How would you describe him/her (appearance, personality, etc.)? Do you have anything in common?
- What problems do the characters face? How did they (or how could you) solve them? How are they feeling?
- What is the setting? (where the story takes place)
- Were there any words you didn't recognize in this part? Let's go back and see if we can figure out what it means using the words around it (or the context).
- Did you notice any multiple meaning words? What do they mean? (Examples: trunk, club, fly, last, check, handle)
- What do you think will happen in the next chapter or section?

Talk about what the weather is like today, and think about keeping a chart for the week or month. For younger students, you might use more simple terms like rainy or sunny, and compare/contrast the different types of weather with a Venn diagram.

For older students, you can look together at the probability of precipitation (ex" "Is it more likely to be cloudy or sunny at 4:00 pm today?") and look up more complex weather terms (humidity and what it means, cloud types, etc.)

Dear SLP/Parent,

I hope you find this useful for your student(s) in case of an emergency or extended school closing for weather, illness, etc. Please note: this is not intended as a substitute for direct speech-language therapy; rather, this is intended to provide you with some suggestions on helping to maintain your student's progress with his/her overall communication skills when school is not able to be in session.

If you are in need of other speech-language ideas, please check out my blog (www.slpnataliesnyders.com) or other materials (www.shopnataliesnyders.com)! Find an overall explanation of speech & language disorders in the school setting at bit.ly/slphandouts.



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About the Author:

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