

# Come Talk With Me



a monthly newsletter produced by  
**USC Caruso Family Center**  
for Childhood Communication

Volume 1 • Issue 6 • August 2016



## From Your Audiologist

- Make sure that your child has extra batteries in his/her backpack daily.
- Review how to troubleshoot your child's listening technology with this year's grade level teacher.
- Create a folder for your child's teacher containing information about your child's listening technology that can be shared with substitute teachers.
- Confirm that your child's FM technology is in working order in this year's classroom. Seek help from your educational audiologist if you have questions.

## Words Matter

- This is a great time of the year to review school related vocabulary with your child.
- School supplies include: scissors, paper, markers, crayons, glue, spiral notebook, 3 ring binder, folder, colored pencils, wide ruled paper, thesaurus, dictionary, parts of a computer, mouse, keyboard, screen, monitor, hard drive, write, scribble, color, draw, type, transition
- Increase your child's flexibility in word usage. For example, the word school can be used as a noun and as an adjective, e.g. a school day, an elementary school
- Encourage your child to tell a story about an event that occurred at school. Add details. Help your child improve his/her narration skills using school related words.
- Future friends can be found everywhere your child goes. Practice how to make and respond to introductions. Young children may need help meeting new friends.



## Parent Strategies

- Spend time teaching your child to tie his shoes, to open and close, to zip and unzip his backpack, to put on and take off a lightweight jacket independently. Make sure your child knows how to open and close lunch containers, juice boxes and Ziplock bags. Independence fosters success.
- Make sure your child can recite the days of the week, the days of the week in order, the months of the year, the date, and the calendar year.
- As you talk with your child about daily school events, keep in mind that this is a great time to expand your child's oral language abilities. Encourage your child to add a time concept such as, a little while ago, earlier today, before lunch, after-school, and during math, during conversations about the school day.



# Read On!

- Mouse's First Day by Lauren Thompson
- Mouse Goes to School by Laura Numeroff
- Mouse Views by Bruce Macmillan
- Slippers Goes to School by Andrew Clements
- Pirates Go to School by Corrine Demas
- Splat The Cat by Rob Scotton
- Matilda by Roald Dahl
- Stuart Goes to School Sara Pennypacker



## When reading with your child....

- Help your child make personal connections to the story. Relate book experiences to everyday experiences in your home.
- Help your child make connections between books read aloud. Find books with stories about similar experiences. Read the books together. Find likenesses and differences in the stories read aloud. Compare and contrast stories.
- Help your child make connections with the story to world events linking everyday knowledge to the story.
- Avoid asking too many detail questions. Questions such as “I wonder why he did that? Why do you think the boy did this?” prompt thinking and analysis of character actions.



## Let's Chat

- Children by the age of five years should be able to recite their full address. Practice with your child. Encourage your child to memorize your cell phone number.
- As the new school year begins, teachers will outline classroom rules. This is a great time to review rules for general safety, such as crossing the street in a safe manner, riding the bus safely to school and from school to home again.
- Listing within a category is a strategy to support the development of auditory memory skills. List items that could be placed in a backpack. List foods placed in your child's lunchbox. List the order of activities that will be completed afterschool with your child. Encourage your child to repeat the list in the order heard. Provide your child with opportunities to generate lists. Listing is a strategy we use to remember items.

## Social Stars

- This month, focus on self-advocacy. Consider giving your child an opportunity to show their hearing technology to their friends. Encourage your child to talk with friends about what helps them in different listening situations. You may want to consider describing their hearing aids and/or cochlear implants, as their personal listening technology. Discuss how we use technology in a variety of ways.
- When communication challenges occur, make sure your child has strategies to ‘repair’ the conversational breakdown. Teach your child to say, “please tell me again, tell me again using different words, tell me again a little slower.”
- Find reasons to socialize with your child's new classmates. Invite another child to your home for a playdate or an afterschool snack. Socializing at home can be less intimidating than attending a large birthday party in a noisy, crowded location.

