

Come Talk With Me



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for Childhood Communication

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From Your Audiologist

- Make sure that your child has extra batteries in his/her backpack daily. Review troubleshooting your child's listening technology with this year's grade level teacher.
- 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

It's that time of year again, where we are getting ready for a new school year. Whether you are starting school, returning to a school, or moving on to a new school, pay attention to the people who help keep us safe, assist, provide, and manage our community – these are our community helpers. Vocabulary to target this month include: nurse, doctor, police, firefighter, crossing guard, chef, teacher, postal worker, construction worker, astronaut, farmer, soldier, librarian, bus driver, hair dresser, babysitter, park ranger, banker, speech pathologist, and audiologist.

Help build your child's community helper vocabulary by asking them "who" questions. For example, "Who helps you cross the street safely at school?" "Who harvests crops and provides food to us?" "Who helps you with your words and speech sounds?" "Who checks your ears and your equipment?"

For kids who can label community providers, increase their vocabulary by discussing the roles played by these helpers. For example, "Firefighters put out fires." "Librarian organizes the books in a library." "Police patrol and survey environments for safety."



Parent Strategies

- Expose your child to books that feature community helpers. Support their learning with art supplies, dress-up clothes, and imaginative play materials (i.e. toy doctor kit, pretend food, and toy vehicles) to connect book knowledge to meaningful play (text-to-self connections).
- For older kids, help build their awareness of your role or a family member's role in the community by describing your/their occupation and how it contributes to your child's life and their surroundings. In addition, encourage your child to think about how they can be a community provider.



Read On!

- Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
- Wemberley Worried by Kevin Henkes
- The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
- Kindergarten Rocks by Katie Davis
- There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Books by Lucille Colandro
- The Night Before First Grade by Natasha Wing



Supporting your child's literacy development

During the month of August, encourage your child to write using one of the suggestions below:

- Ask your child to make a list of school supplies that mom or dad should purchase at the store.
- Write the lyrics to "The Wheels on the Bus." Sing the song together.
- Ask your child to pretend that he found a magic wand. Talk about what he would do if he had a magic wand? Draw a picture of what he would do with the magic wand. Write a paragraph describing what he would do with the magic wand. Then read The Magic Fish by Freya Littledale. Talk about the wishes that were granted by the magic fish. Talk about the moral of the story and what readers learn from the story. Make connections from the story The Magic Fish, to your child's wish.



Let's Chat

- For little kids, practice using sentences with "**became**," "**changed**," and "**turned into**." "He **became** president." "She **changed** jobs from being a babysitter to a teacher." "My younger brother **turned into** a brave police officer."
- Use sabotage or create sentence absurdities to test your child's semantic and syntactic skills. First, misname a community helper when describing their role. For example, "An **astronaut** drives kids to school in the morning." Next, have your child repeat back the sentence using the appropriate person: "A **bus driver** drives kids to school in the morning."
- Review sentence structures using "**either or**," and "**neither nor**." For example, "A firefighter can be **either** a man **or** a woman." "Dad is **neither** a crossing guard **nor** a chef."

Social Stars

Using your child's dolls, imitate actions and act out scenarios involving their favorite community workers. For example, provide paper, pencils, and books and suggest that your child imitate actions of teachers from their school.

Have your child interview a family member or friend regarding their role and responsibilities in the community. Review questions your child will ask prior to the interview. Examples include: "Where do you work?" "What do you like about your job?" "How do you help people like me?" Have fun by utilizing a pretend microphone and recorder.

Does your child love getting mail? Have them return the favor by writing a letter to a distant relative. After completing the letter and addressing the envelope, discuss the postal worker's role in helping deliver the letter to the relative. Perhaps the letter will initiate a new pen pal and work on communication turn-taking.

