

# Come Talk With Me



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

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## From Your Audiologist

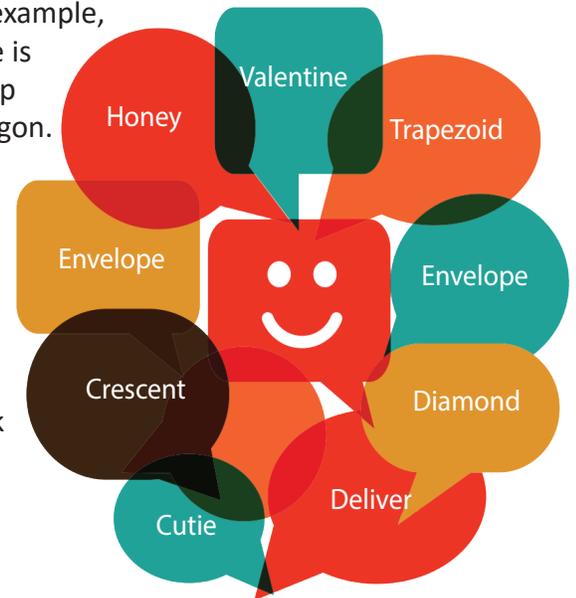
Breakage and moisture in hearing aids and cochlear implants is most frequently caused by lack of use of the dry and store. Make sure that you remove the battery, leave the battery door open on the hearing aid, and place in the dry and store overnight. Change the desiccant tablet in the dry and store or the drying brick for the zephyr every two months. (We've had an unusually wet February!)

Make sure you have designated a special container for your child to place his/her hearing aids at the end of the day. Make this routine. Hearing aids are costly to replace.

## Words Matter

As we transition into the month of February, we are discovering all the things we love. Words to target for this month's theme include: Heart, diamond, trapezoid, hexagon, crescent, semicircle, pentagon, oval, Valentine, sweet, type, cool, write, cards, envelope, stamp, address, love, crush, cutie, sweetheart, honey, deliver, arrive, and receive.

- Support your child's understanding of shapes by pointing out items in your environment. For example, your chocolate chip cookie is the shape of a circle. A stop sign is the shape of a hexagon. A Valentine's Day card is a shape of a rectangle.
- Call your child by a new term of endearment (i.e.: "Honey," "Sweetie," "Cutie"). See if your child responds to the name. Ask them why they think you called them by that name.



## Parent Strategies

- Explore the many uses of the word "love" during the month of February. Talk about the people you love, the things you love, and places you love to go to. It's important to build word flexibility in young children.
- Shape up during the month of February! Encourage your child to listen carefully, to follow a series of multi-step directions. Consider asking your child to "jump twice," "walk in a circle," and "wash your hands before dinner."



# Read On!

- [The Day It Rained Hearts](#) by Felicia Bond
- [Llama, Llama I Love You](#) by Anna Dewdney
- [Happy Valentine's Day Mouse](#) by Laura Numeroff
- [There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Heart](#) by Lucille Colandro
- [Listening with My Heart: An Act of Compassion and Kindness](#) by Gabi Garcia
- [What Should Danny Do?](#) By Adir Levy



## Supporting your child's literacy development

This month we suggest 5 ways to motivate your child to read:

Set aside a regular read-aloud time with your child. Elementary and early middle school readers continue to benefit from listening to fluent readers read.

Create a special place for reading together. Make interacting with books an enjoyable experience.

Ask older children to read aloud to younger children.

Model the joy of reading! Remember less is often more. Pick one favorite book, reread it several times together this month!

Look for different types of reading material. Children enjoy books that incorporate humor. Children enjoy learning factual information. (Select non-fiction books about animals.) Read the signs when you are out and about in the community.



## Let's Chat

- Teach your child to understand the quantitative concept “one” versus “all.” For example, “Show me all the candy you got today at your Valentine’s Day party.” “You can have **one** piece of candy.” “Which **one** is your favorite out of **all** of them.”
- Have your child use “**me too**” to express inclusion. For example, encourage a sibling or family member to request – “I want some chocolate.” Then encourage your child to say “**Me too.**”
- Practice using the word “**us**” in conversations. Your child will benefit from listening and observing you use the word “us.” Model the sentence - “The box of Valentines cards is for us.” Then, ask your child – “Who is the box of Valentines cards for?”

## Social Stars

- Teach your child strategies to politely interrupt adult conversations. Praise your child for using those strategies. “I like the way you listened and waited before you took your turn to talk.” This will increase your child’s motivation to wait politely, instead of interrupting the conversation.
- Today’s children are experiencing access to videos on YouTube on your cell phone. Keep in mind the big 4 cell rules of engagement – limit screen time, use screen time in an interactive way, take turns talking while sharing a video together, and teach your child when someone talks to them while they are engaged with videos to stop, look up, and listen.

