

How to Promote Speech & Language Skills

While Having Fun!

Many activities your child already enjoys can encourage and build speech and language skills! Board games and certain apps provide practice with skills such as turn taking, social skills, expressive language, vocabulary, describing, and grammar, as well as provide opportunities to practice articulation (speech sounds) and fluency.

Suggested Board Games:

Scattergories: This game allows for practice of naming items in categories. Rapid naming tasks such as these help build and strengthen connections in the brain to connect concepts and ideas.

Hed Bands: This game is great to focus on a variety of language goals! It includes such tasks as describing, asking/answering questions, and vocabulary. To add difficulty, make your own cards – you can add such things as famous people, family members, school subjects, body parts, countries/states, animals, etc.

Apples to Apples: This game is perfect to focus on skills such as word relationships, describing, comparing/contrasting, and vocabulary. There is both a junior and adult version available.

Guess Who: This is a great game to work on reasoning, describing, asking/answering questions, and vocabulary.

Rory's Story Cubes: These cubes allow you to build your own stories, so you can focus on such things as grammar, building vocabulary, expanding sentences, telling a story in the appropriate sequence, and so much more! For extra practice, write down the stories that you create, and have your child draw pictures to go along with it.

Connect Four: This game is great for students working on speech sounds – have your child say a word or sentence with his/her target sound correctly before taking a turn.

Suggested Apps:

Toon Tastic (free with optional paid upgrades; for iPad): This app allows you to make your own animated films. You can draw your own set and/or characters, or use ones built into the app.

Super Super Story Maker (free with optional paid upgrades, for iPad): Similar to Toon Tastic, this app allows you to make your own story book.

Both of these apps provide great practice for language skills such as grammar, turn taking, social skills, sequencing, and vocabulary.

Mad Libs (free for iPad, iPhone, & iPod Touch): This app is a great way to work on grammar and parts of speech. The old fashioned paper and pencil version works, too!

Classify It! (free for iPad and iPhone): This app targets categories, similarities, & differences while allowing your child to learn about different animals. Various levels of difficulty.

Talking Tom (free for iPad, iPhone, & Android): This app is good for targeting specific speech sounds – have your child say his/her target sound in words, phrases, and/or sentences, and listen to Tom repeat them; then, decide if it was a correct or incorrect production of the sound. (Tip: Turn off some of the “extra” features in the settings to focus solely on speech.)