

THE CITY SPEAKS

A PARENT NEWSLETTER BY DISTRICT 75 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PROVIDERS

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Making Summer Social

Summertime is a perfect opportunity to use these communication skills and create activities to promote social interactions with family and friends. In this issue we will provide you with some summertime ideas to promote language and communication at home.

This year's focus has been on communication and social interaction. Communication demonstrates having an interest in other people and encourages others to want to interact with you. Communication is not just speech it is writing, body language, facial expression, looking at objects, pointing and a common system of signs, gestures, photographs, picture symbols and pictures. Social interaction may include: getting attention, maintaining topic of conversation and taking turns.

Activities for Social Interaction and Communication

The following structured activities can be done at home or outside as a guide for your child to encourage social interaction. These activities can be fun and educational. While cooking, have your child request and identify items, take turns with siblings and peers and follow directions. Incorporate group games and activities into family picnics and barbecues.

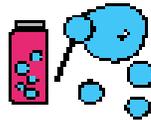
Fourth of July Cake

Ingredients:

- 2 or 3 boxes of red Jello
- 1 can of Whipped cream
- 50 Blueberries

Directions:

1. Make the Jello according to the directions on the box.
2. Refrigerate the Jello overnight.
3. Arrange the blueberries and whipped cream to resemble a flag leaving the Jello as the red stripe.



All Weather Bubbles

Ingredients:

- 12 cups of water
- 1 cup of dish soap (Joy, blue Dawn and Ivory are recommended for big bubbles)
- 1 cup corn starch
- 2 tablespoons baking powder (not baking soda)
- 1 bucket and bubble wands

Directions:

1. Place the water, dish soap, cornstarch, and baking powder in a bucket.
2. Mix well and try not to make foam.

Expert tip: Carry a large serving spoon in your bucket. Use it to stir your mix occasionally, and skim off the foam. (Foam is bad for bubbles.) Also, when your mix is about half gone, try adding another cup or so of water.

David Stein's soap research is ongoing! Get the latest tips at www.bubblething.com.

Outdoor Activities

- Baseball game or other sporting events
- Barbecues
- Picnics
- Playing in the park
- Miniature Golf
- Making and selling lemonade and/or ice tea
- Sidewalk chalk
- Arts and Crafts

*For ideas you can go to the following websites:

www.dltk-kids.com, www.crayola.com



Dear CITY SPEAKS,

Summer vacation is quickly approaching and I am really looking forward to spending time with my child. Can you please offer some suggestions of activities that are educational, fun, and inexpensive?
On a Budget

Dear On a Budget!

This time of year provides opportunities for you and your child to have fun exploring new places, cooking simple recipes, making crafts, or reading together. Some activities that you may consider participating in include:

- Maintain daily routines and provide opportunities to involve your child in activities such as, sorting utensils, folding laundry, and preparing meals. Ask questions, name objects, and predict the next step to encourage communication.
- Take a trip to the museum. Many of New York’s museums offer activities for kids of all ages. You may want to visit the Children’s Museum of the Arts, New York Hall of Science, and New York City Fire Museum.
- AMC movie theatres have partnered up with the Autism Society. Please visit www.autismsociety.org for information.
- The following websites will provide you with information on daily free activities around New York City.
<http://gocitykids.parentconnect.com>
<http://gonyc.about.com>
www.freeinnyc.net
www.newyorkkids.timeout.com



Joke Time

Q: Why did Cinderella get kicked off the baseball team?
A: Because she ran away from the ball.

Knock, Knock!
Who’s there?
Summer.
Summer who?
Summertime is here!

PLANNING FOR SUMMER

There are several options available for your child:

Chapter 683 for D75 programs begins July 6th and ends August 13th.

There are also a variety of summer camps available for children with special needs. Summer camp programs provide opportunities for socializing and making new friends, increasing self-confidence, engaging in new situations, learning new skills, participating in organized sports and play activities, improving social and emotional development and of course, getting to be outdoors!

Contact your school’s parent coordinator &/or guidance counselor for more information on local camps.

To find additional listings for a day or sleep away camp that meets your child’s specific needs, refer to:

Resources for Children with Special Needs
www.resourcesnycdatabase.org (212)-677-4650.
www.campchatterbox.org

SUMMER SEARCH

V A C A T I O N N S G N J E T
 K X W S D P F E O U G O H O L
 Z I A N U A E G J M N L I C E
 R Y A R U R P F Y M V E M C Z
 D S E L C S J G Y E C M I K Z
 P Y W S O Q E T N R E R W Z H
 C A N I Z O M A E R C E S X U
 O U P O M T P I V M H T Z H H
 S S O G I S B X D G L A P K R
 Q O U V O E U H T Z L W S D Y
 G K E U A C V I H T T W M I T
 V V X C H I E M T Y T H K U S
 Z S H Y B R R D T G H M H Y K
 V J R V A M M X N H M Z J S Q
 P H O F Q E M F Q M X D Q K K

BEACH SAND SWIM
 ICE CREAM SUMMER SWIMSUIT
 POOL SUNSCREEN VACATION
 WATERMELON

Social stories demonstrate appropriate behaviors in real life situations. During the summer, you may visit the community pool which may be a new experience for your child. To prepare your child, you can read aloud the following story using the picture board as needed.

I’m Going to the Pool Story

It is summer. Sometimes I go to the pool. Many people are at the pool. Sometimes it is loud. That is ok. I might hear splashing or people laughing. The water feels cool and wet. That is ok. There are lots of things to hear at the pool. There are lots of things to see at the pool. There are lots of things to feel at the pool. I will have fun at the pool this summer!

Communication Board: Pool

summer 	pool 	people
loud 	OK 	splash
laugh 	wet 	cold

If you have any questions or topics that you would like us to address, please send an e-mail to: or BMandel6@schools.nyc.gov

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