

THE CITY SPEAKS

A PARENT NEWSLETTER BY DISTRICT 75 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PROVIDERS

Cathleen P. Black, Chancellor

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"May is Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM)"

The American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) has declared the month of May to celebrate better hearing and speech. This is a great time to consult with your child's speech and language therapist. For additional information/ideas for "BHSM" go to <http://www.asha.org/bhsm/>

In this edition of, "The City Speaks" we will address speech skills and "Going Green".

Parents as Partners : You and Your Child "Going Green"

Every day should be Earth Day! Earth day began on April 22nd, 1970 and has been an important day ever since. It is a day to reflect on our planet, our environment and what we can do to help keep them healthy. Our world is becoming concerned with the environment and its future. It is our responsibility as adults to teach our children ways to protect our world. They are the next green generation. This spring we will be talking about ways to "Go Green". This is an opportunity to engage your child in conversation about ways to take care of the planet.

"Going Green" Activities

You can plan structured activities to guide your child towards helping the environment. For example, going to the supermarket to recycle cans and bottles, using recycled milk cartons, and making musical instruments out of recycled materials. These activities will help your child to develop their speech, language and social interaction skills. Please remember—allow your child to complete these activities with as little help as possible. It is about the interaction and the process, not how the final product looks.

Recycling Cans and Bottles: Create a bin in your house where the family can collect cans and bottles. Encourage your child to approach neighbors and request recyclables. After the items are collected, your child can sort them into groups. Visit the local supermarket where he/she may exchange the cans and bottles for money. You may take this opportunity to encourage your child to make a choice. He/she may save the money or spend it immediately.

Speech-language goals addressed: sequencing, labeling, sorting, developing vocabulary, choice making, commenting, requesting, responding and asking questions.

Milk Carton Ideas: Do not throw away your old milk cartons! Milk cartons may be used to plant seeds. Cut off the top and poke a few holes in the bottom for drainage. Fill with potting soil and plant seeds. Make sure to keep it by a sunny window.

- Create a bird feeder. Cut off the top of the carton and pour in birdseeds. Attach a string and place outside. Watch your feathered friends appear.
- Decorate the milk carton and make a pen and pencil holder.

Speech-language goals addressed: choice making, sequencing, labeling, commenting, following directions, requesting, responding and asking questions.

Tips for Going Green at Home: Create a box where all paper (newspapers, magazines, and junk mail) may go. Encourage your child to shut off the water when brushing teeth. Make sure he/she shuts the lights off when they leave a room. Unplug all chargers when not in use(let this be a job for your child).

Speech-language goals addressed: labeling, requesting, commenting, following directions, recalling information developing vocabulary, responding and asking questions.

*For more "Going Green" activities, go to www.kids-going-green.com and www.suite101.com/content/helping-your-teen-go-green-a111526.



Dear CITY SPEAKS,

My 16 year old daughter with special needs is looking for a part-time job. She has an older sibling who has a job and wants to follow in her sibling's footsteps. I've opted not to send my daughter to summer school this year. Do you know of any job opportunities that would be appropriate?

Signed,
Parent of Job Seeker

Dear Parent of Job Seeker,

Before you even start looking for a job for your daughter, it is important to discuss her areas of interest as well as her strengths (social skills, money skills, computer skills or sorting skills) with her. Once your daughter decides what she wants to do, the two of you should set up a meeting with the job coach (or parent coordinator if a job coach is not available) in her school. She will learn how to fill out a job application and how to interview for a job.

Joke Time



Q. What should you do when it rains cats and dogs?

A. Be careful not to step on a poodle.

Is this joke funny?

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Q. Why did the chicken cross the playground?

A: To get to the other slide!

Is this joke funny?

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PLAN AHEAD FOR SUMMER

There are several options available for your child:

Chapter 683 for D75 programs begins July 6th and ends August 15th.

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.resourcesnydatabase.org (212)-677-4650.

Steps for Recycling Cans and Bottles

FIRST	Put empty bottles and cans in a bag.	
NEXT	Go to recycling station and put bottles and cans in machine.	
THEN	Press green button and get receipt.	
LAST	Give Cashier receipt and get money.	

Communication Board: Recycling

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

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