

THE CITY SPEAKS

A PARENT NEWSLETTER BY DISTRICT 75 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PROVIDERS

Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

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Summer is officially here! Keeping children engaged and learning during the hot summer days can sometimes be a challenge. In this issue, we will provide you with some summertime tips to support the development of literacy skills and to help promote language and communication at home. Chapter 683, the District 75 summer school program, provides students with a continuation of specialized instructional programs and related services, including speech-language therapy. This year Chapter 683 will begin July 5, 2012 and will end on August 14, 2012. Find out who your child's speech therapist is for the summer—it may or may not be the same therapist from the previous school year. Your child's speech therapist can provide you with additional communication supports relevant to summer. The Parent and Language Committee would like to wish you a safe and happy summer!

Literacy and Language

This year's focus has been on literacy and language skills. As parents, you can create opportunities for your child to practice the skills discussed during the year. By practicing these skills during the summer, you are setting your child up for success during the school year. Helping your child to learn to read and write does not have to take a lot of extra time or money. Here are some easy ways to build literacy skills, at home, in the sun, or on the run.

At home



- Encourage your child to spell and write his/her name.
- Place alphabet magnets on your refrigerator. When you are working in the kitchen, ask your child to name the letters he/she plays with as well as creating simple words.
- Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write and draw. Keep books and other reading materials where your child can easily reach them.
- Support your child in reading newspapers and magazines. Hold a discussion about current events.
- Model and encourage your child to use more descriptive words when speaking and writing. When he/she produces a simple sentence, instruct him/her to tell you more.
- Have your child keep a summer journal. Encourage him/her to write in their journal after partaking in a new or fun experience.
- Follow a recipe with your child. Baking is fun and works on following directions and sequencing!

In the sun



- When on the beach or in the park, lie on the ground and have your child describe the shapes of the clouds.
- Go to your neighborhood park and take a nature walk. Ask your child to write and/or describe all the things you see or collect. Young writers can draw the objects and those with more advanced writing skills can write down words or sentences.
- At the beach or in the garden, draw shapes in the sand or soil. See if your child can match and/or identify the shapes.
- Use sidewalk chalk to write messages to your neighbors, such as "Have a nice day!"
- Take your child to museums, concerts, and sporting events throughout the city. These provide opportunities to hold discussions about what was seen, liked and disliked.

On the run



- Point out words when you are out and about. Point out individual letters in signs, billboards, posters, food containers, books and magazines.
- Ask your child to tell you a story about what he/she is doing outside.
- Take books and writing materials with you whenever you leave home. This gives your child fun activities to entertain and occupy him/her while traveling and going to appointments. Have him/her relate the readings to their own lives.
- Ask your child to help you write a grocery list. At the store, have him/her watch for the items on the list and match the words on the label to the words on the list. An older child may clip coupons for items on the grocery list.
- Visit bookstores and public libraries. Have your child find books that are interesting to him/her. Many of the libraries and bookstores have scheduled activities to participate in.

Dear CITY SPEAKS,

In August, my child will be going on an airplane for the first time. My eight-year-old son with special needs has difficulty with transitions and often gets nervous in new situations. What can I do to make this experience easier for him? Please help!

Nervous Flyer

Dear Nervous Flyer,

New experiences can be difficult for any child especially a child with special needs. The best way to approach the situation is to prepare your son before going on the plane. Here are some ways to prepare your son:

- Talk about the trip! He needs to know what to expect. Show him pictures of airplanes, pictures of where you are going, people you will see. Get him excited!
- Create a visual schedule of the airport process. Make a chart that shows the steps including checking in your luggage, going through security, getting on the plane, and buckling his seat belt.
- Create a social story or a book containing pictures of your son in the situations he will be in during the flying process. For example, have a picture of your son waiting in a line with a caption of "I have to stand in line and wait for my turn." Read this book to your son often to prepare him for the trip. The websites www.graycenter.org and www.sand-box-learning are two resources you can use to find or create a social story.
- Bring some of his favorite activities or snacks to occupy him in the airport and on the airplane.
- Ask your son's speech teacher for help in creating the visual schedule and social story to get him ready for this new experience!

Good Luck!

Joke Time



Q: How do athletes stay cool during a game?



A: They stand near the fans!

Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Amos.
Amos who?
A mosquito bit me!



PLANNING FOR SUMMER

There are several options available for your child:
Chapter 683 for D75 programs begins July 5th and ends August 14th.

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 (908)-301-5451

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		



There are many Ipad and Iphone apps that promote language and literacy and are great for children with special needs. Here are some recommended apps that are educational for your child:

- Sentence Reading Magic
- Itouchilearn
- Speech with Milo Apps
- Touch and Learn Emotions
- My Playhome
- Free word puzzle
- Preschool Monkey Lunchbox
- Starfall ABC
- SuperDuper Fundecks
- Awesome Eats
- Donut Maker
- Cupcake maker
- First Find
- Elmo ABCs
- I Create...Social Skills...
- I See-quence Series Apps
- Moon Bot Books
- First Words Apps

***** IEP driven-devices purchased by the NYCDOE for your child including Ipads are to be used as communication devices. The above mentioned apps cannot be downloaded on these devices.**

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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