

K-PREP NEWS

Aug 2024

IMPORTANT

The transition from August to September tends to be a busy time. Graduates are heading off on their next adventure, new students are starting, and transitions are happening throughout the building. Please be patient as we navigate the shuffles and changes.

Teacher Updates



Ms. CICILY'S LAST DAY WILL BE FRIDAY, AUGUST 16TH. SHE WILL CERTAINLY BE MISSED! WE WISH HER ALL THE BEST ON HER NEXT ADVENTURE.

Ms. ERICA WILL BE TAKING OVER THE LEAD TEACHER POSITION IN PRESCHOOL.



Water Play

Last day of water play will be **Thursday, August 8th!**

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Tips to Support Language Development

You drop your child off at school and their very vocal classmate comes up to you. They're talking up a storm. You look at your child and wonder "Why isn't my child talking like that?" We've all been there, *trust me*.

As hard as it may be, try not to compare your child with others. Every child *is* different and that is okay. Below are some strategies to try to build language at home:

- **Read, read, read. Talk, talk, talk.** The more language your child hears during the day, the more they will understand and begin to use it themselves.
- **Play dumb** – It goes against our parental instincts, but it is beneficial. You know your child wants their cup. Instead of giving it to them try "What do you want? I don't know what you're saying." Don't give in to pointing or grunting. Hold out, prompt, and model. "Oh, you want the cup? Say 'cup'. Here's your cup."
- **Hold objects at your face** – Hold objects next to your face so that you have the child's attention AND they can see how the words are formed when you label it for them.
- **Rule of 3** – Rule of thumb is label something 3 times before giving it to them. After the 2nd time, pause to see if your child imitates. Label again and hand it over.
- **Label EVERYTHING** – Talk about everything you see; objects, colors, animals, etc.
- **Offer 2 Choices** – Would you like grapes or cheese for snack? Be sure to present each option as you label it.
- **Provide smaller portions at snack times/meals** – This allows more opportunities for your child to use their language. "More" is a great steppingstone, but don't get stuck there. As your child begins using some words, such as "more," continue to expand. i.e., "Do you want more cheese or more water?"
- **Pair gestures/signs with words** – Baby signs are a great way to breach the communication barrier, so you and your child are not frustrated. Just make sure that when modeling signs, you're pairing the word with it. This also works great with other gestures. i.e., When walking up the stairs "up, up, up," or during play "The frog goes 'hop, hop, hop.'"
- **Praise, praise, praise!** – Positively reinforce any and all attempts, approximations, or successes during this journey!

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Questions you may have...

- **How many words should my child have?**
 - On *average*, children should have at least 5 words (in addition to mama/dada) by one year.
 - By two years, children should be putting 2 words together, and it requires an estimated 50-word vocabulary to do so.
- **If I teach my baby signs, will they use the words?** YES! As long as you pair the words, most children who pick up the signs will eventually drop them once they can talk.
- **What is the point of using baby signs?** Children often get frustrated when they cannot communicate. *Communication* is more than just *language*. In addition to decreasing frustration, it helps children understand the *power of communication*. i.e., I let mom know I wanted milk, and I got milk! If I can do that with signs, what can I do with words?!
- **How can I learn baby signs to teach my child?** There are a variety of books and YouTube videos that can help teach you simple baby signs.
- **I've tried everything, but my child is still not talking. What should I do?** If you are concerned, contact your pediatrician or local Early Intervention program. Independent speech therapy through insurance is also an option. Remember, the earlier services can begin, the better.

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