



## May is Better Speech & Hearing Month

American Speech Language Hearing Association reported that the top concerns for surveyed speech-language pathologists (SLPs) is that excessive technology use by children is replacing conversation and human interaction. The most basic of activities, such conversation and interaction is essential to children's speech and language development as well as future academic and social success. Unfortunately, the availability and convenience of tablets and other electronic devices may be supplanting time for talking, reading, and interactive play. This is where the concerns to communication development come into play. So this SLP requests that you put the phone down, give full body attention and instigate family time conversations.

**Here are tips to get the conversation party started.**

**Dinner time talk:** Use a "talking stick" ala pepper shaker or spatula to help with turn taking and interrupting

**Be sure to remind your kids of the rules of conversation;** good eye contact to show you are listening, asking relevant questions or comments, staying on topic, polite ways to enter/exit a conversation

**Topics & Questions to Motivate & Instigate Conversation Sports:** Talk about sports you like, your favorite teams. Tell stories about sports heroes, embarrassing moments and/or memorable sporting events.

**Brainstorming Fun for all ages**

If you had 3 wishes, what would they be? Then explain why

If you found \$100, what would you spend it?

What superpower would you want? Describe how you would use them.

What is your fantasy vacation?

**Share Laughter with funny & odd news:** sources may include Odd news, Dogonews.com, IgNobel, Huffington Post, local headlines

**Movies:** talk about the latest movie, how the characters felt and changed, the different viewpoints of characters, how would you change the ending

**Family Book Club:** Talk about the books you are reading, why it's interesting, the lesson learned. Go to Library and check out/browse books together

**Be a Food Critic:** Discuss your restaurant meal like a food critic and judge and evaluate the food using tasty vocabulary and delectable synonyms

**Folklore:** Recall funny stories about family members, pets included!

**Tell Jokes:** Learning and telling jokes is a great language and social skill.



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