

Talking Tips FOR PARENTS

For the July-August 2019 Issue of *Talking Tips*, the theme is “Summer Fun.” **There are many learning opportunities in this newsletter for the lazy days of summer.** Any of these would be appropriate to plan ahead with your child’s teacher for your summer sessions, or to do other days of summer for you and your child/children.

Make it Mondays: If you haven’t made anything together with your child before, you might want to ask your child’s teacher to help you with this the first time. He/She can help you learn to incorporate the skills you currently need to practice with your child in listening, vocabulary, and language. **If you won’t be seeing your child’s teacher, have your spouse, friend, or a grandparent act as “another pair of hands.”** Here are some suggestions for things you could make, depending on the age of your child:

- **Pudding**—put it in a shaker (“shake, shake, shake the pudding,”), or mix with an egg beater;
- **PB&J Sandwich**—spread the peanut butter (“Spread the peanut butter”) and jelly on the bread (“Spread the jelly,”) put another piece on top (“Put more bread on top”).

Traveling Tuesdays: Tuesday is the day to:

- **go on a little “trip”** to the zoo, to the art museum, or something as simple as a walk around the block.
- **Remember to talk to your child about what you are doing, while you are doing it.**

Wet Wednesdays: At bath time or in a wading pool outside,

- play with sponges—squeezing them and watching the water drip. Cut the sponges in halves or thirds so they fit in toddlers’ or preschoolers’ little hands. Talk about water, squeezing, splashing, and more.
- Another day, play in a baby pool with plastic cups, bowls, spoons. Talk about pouring (“Pour the water in the cup”; “The water is all gone”, “We need more water,”) and so on.

Thinking Thursdays. This could be anything that you and your child can think about together.

- Read a rhyming book and listen to the words.
- Put bubbles in bath water to see what happens.
- **Be sure to talk about everything you do.**

Fun Fridays. On Fridays, think of something that **you and your child both think is fun** to do together.

- Some children like art activities, some children like to help you cook, other children like to go to a park and play on the playground, and others like to go to an ice cream shop.
- It doesn’t matter what you do. **What matters is that you talk to your child about what you and he/she are doing.**

Your child’s teacher can help you decide what would be most appropriate language to use with your child, new vocabulary, and listening practice.

