

# Everyday Experiences

March/April 2020

Your participation is crucial to the development and carryover of your child's language skills. You can help them learn to use their vocabulary and skills in a variety of everyday settings. Here's an activity to try with your child that incorporates many language skills!

**This week's activity for your child:** **Taking a walk!** (Even though it may be chilly, try to find a day that's not freezing to bundle up and get outside!) Spring is a time of change where you can see nature shifting between the seasons. Sunny, windy, and rainy days all provide unique opportunities to expose your child to vocabulary terms and to allow them to experience these words first-hand!

**Vocabulary that may be used:** *shoes, boots, feet, coat, umbrella, gloves, hat, hot, cold, sunny, cloudy, rainy, windy, snowy, tree, flower, grass, rock, leaf, dog, bird, car, truck, bus, airplane, bike, big, little, fast, slow, walk, run, jump, fly, fall, listen, look, smell, outside, inside, up, down, on top, under, etc.*

**Ways to elicit language during this activity:**

1. **Describing:** Describe what you see and what things are happening around you (We are running so fast! I see a big bus. The boy is walking his dog. Let's go up on the curb. Jump down!)
2. **Answering questions:** (What do you hear? Where is the airplane? Do you see the big tree?)
3. **Sequences:** (What do we do next? - from putting on shoes, to taking the walk, and returning home)
4. **Mistakes!!** Life is full of little mistakes, but that's okay because they provide a great opportunity to model language in a natural way! (Oh no!! What happened to your shoe? *Wait for response, then offer your idea.* Your shoe fell off. We have to fix it! What should we do? *Wait for response, then offer your idea.*)

\*Sometimes your child may not know the answer to a question, may not be able to answer it verbally, or may not know what comes next in a sequence, and that's okay!! What's important in these moments is that **you** model and provide answers to those questions for your child. This helps expose your child to new, different ways to answer that question! Also remember, pointing, gesturing, and looking are all forms of communication too!\*

**Other targets:**

Working on listening for directions to know what comes next.

Working on vocabulary exposure, retention, and use in a functional activity!

Working on all your senses—what do you see, hear, smell, touch, taste?

Working on safety (Stop! I see a car. We need to wait. Hold my hand when we're walking so I can help you be safe.)