



Kid Talk!

SPEECH TO HOME CONNECTION
NURSERY & KINDERGARTEN



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Talking Tools

Talking tools are tools that parents can use to help develop their child's speech and language skills. A child who has strong speech and language skills will be a better reader and writer. Each of the 'Kid Talk' newsletters will cover 2 different talking tools that you can practice with your child.



These "Talking Tools" can be used at any time in any order:

"Get Down to Your Child's Level" When talking and playing with your child, try to be face-to-face whenever possible. This lets your child know that you are interested in what they are saying. It also allows your child to see and read your facial expressions (which enhance the meaning of your message).

"Use Short Simple Sentences" Children understand and learn new words when parents use short and simple sentences.

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Penguin Craft 1

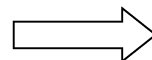
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Scissors, Glue, and Penguins too!

This fun craft activity is as easy as 1,2,3!

1. Using coloured paper, cut out one oval, one large heart, and three small hearts.



2. Assemble the shapes as shown in the picture.

(Oval on the bottom, large heart in the middle to make the tummy, and three small hearts on top for the feet and beak)

3. You can glue on googly eyes or simply draw eyes with a marker.



WORDS TO USE:

cut, glue, shapes, oval, heart, one, two, three, body, tummy, foot, feet, beak/nose, eyes, penguin, black, white, orange





ABC's of Vision and Learning



When should my child's eyes be tested?

- It is recommended that all children have a complete eye exam by age 3. Preferably as early as 6 months and again annually (once a year) throughout their school years.



Why are eye tests so important?

- Undiagnosed eye conditions can lead to learning and behavioral problems.
- Sometimes a child who appears to have normal vision, will have only one properly functioning eye. The other may look normal, but may not be "working". The problem is often very correctable if detected at age 3 or 4 but almost untreatable by age 8 or 9.
- Even if both eyes focus well, they may not coordinate.
- Adjusting focus from far to near is important for learning. A child who is not able to maintain focus up close may have trouble reading.



Who should I take my child to see?

- Vision testing in young children does not require letter recognition or clear communication.
- Children's eye exams/check-ups are **FREE** once every 2 years up to 18 years of age (or more often if recommended by the optometrist).
- To find an optometrist near you visit: www.optometrists.mb.ca/find-an-optometrist

Why Pretend Play is Important



Pretend play builds skills in 3 main areas: **friendship, language, and imagination.**

By playing with other children, kids learn how to take turns, share, problem solve, and practice their speech and language skills (through talking).

Pretend play helps your child understand the power of language.

During pretend play your child will get the chance to act out real-life experiences and add words to their play.

Here are some things that your child might enjoy using for pretend play.

Play Props:

- ◆ old clothes, shoes, purses, hats
- ◆ old cell phones, phone books, magazines
- ◆ wooden spoons, plastic dishes, recyclable food boxes, etc.
- ◆ stuffed animals and dolls of all sizes

Contact your school SLP if you have any questions.