

THE CITY SPEAKS

A PARENT NEWSLETTER BY DISTRICT 75 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PROVIDERS
Richard Carranza, Chancellor Issue # 115
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The Parent and Language Committee (PAL) pens “The City Speaks” newsletter to provide you with current information, tips, and ideas that relate to this year’s focus on **Promoting Communication Skills**. The theme for this issue is “**Promoting Communication Skills- how students continue to build strong communication and connection with their educators.**” Citywide Speech Services (CSS) is committed to maintaining a strong home-school connection. We want to continue building bridges between school-based staff and families. The challenge of remote learning is impacting on the way all students attend school today. It is more important than ever to build on the partnership between home and school. This issue will give some helpful information on building this relationship. Use these resources that are suggested in this newsletter and discuss how these resources can be adapted for the benefit for your child with your child’s speech teacher.

Back To School Terminology

<u>Common IEP Terminology</u>	<u>Common Speech and Language Terminology</u>
<p>AAC- Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Children who are minimally verbal or nonverbal may use an alternate way to communicate their wants and needs. An AAC system may include the use of real objects, picture symbols, expression through sign and/or electronic voice output devices.</p> <p>Activities of Daily Living (ADL)- Routine activities that people tend to do every day without needing assistance. Five basic ADLs are eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, cooking.</p>	<p>Non-verbal Communication: A way of communicating without the use of speech which may include gestures, body language, functional sign language, picture symbols, and voice output devices.</p> <p>Speech (verbalization): The production of words.</p> <p>Vocalization: The production of vocal sounds without the use of real words.</p> <p>Language: An organized set of symbols that is shared by a group of individuals and used to communicate thoughts and feelings. These</p>

Annual Review- Yearly meetings where the IEP is updated to include new goals and any other necessary changes.

Goals- Annual Goals- A behavior or skill that will be the focus throughout the school year.
Short term objectives- Smaller components of the annual goal that are stated in observable and measurable terms.

Least Restrictive Environment- Providing only the supports necessary for your child while working towards achieving academic and social gains and greater independence. This includes changing classroom settings and adjusting related service mandates.

Mandate- This refers to the frequency, amount of time, and group size that your child is seen for a related service. Ex: 2x30:3, means two times a week for 30 minutes in a group of three.

Related Services- Any support service your child needs that will support the instructional program. These services may include speech language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling, hearing services, vision services, and orientation and mobility.

Triennial- Reevaluation of your child's current abilities to determine what changes need to be made to the IEP. This takes place every three years.

symbols can be gestures (sign language), written text, pictures, or spoken language.

Articulation: The production of speech sounds.

Phonology: The rules governing how speech sounds are combined to convey meaning.

Sign Language: A formal language system consisting of meaningful hand shapes.

Pragmatics: How language is used in social contexts.

Syntax: The order that words are put in a sentence.

Semantics: The meaning of words.

Fluency: The smooth meaningful flow of speech.

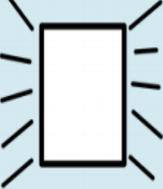
Resources for Going Back to School and Remote Learning

<u>Social Stories</u>	<u>Remote Learning Trips and Resources</u>
<p>Returning to school this year will be different from previous years. It is important to prepare your children for the return to learning. Here are some social stories to help with your preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Free Social Stories -A collection of social stories using pictures and text to explain coronavirus, riding the bus, wearing a mask, distance learning, getting temperature taken, hybrid learning (blended learning), separation anxiety. -Autism Society Social Stories- Additional readings explaining COVID-19, Social distancing and how to test for COVID-19. -I Can Wear a Mask- Social Story- Story with visuals to explain how to wear a mask. -Preparing for Speech Teletherapy- A social story explaining speech teletherapy. <p>Although remote learning looks different than in person there are still some important rules to follow. Review/ practice with your child the following rules and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The basics of how to use a computer and iPad - How to sign on to live sessions - Appropriate times to mute and unmute the microphone during teacher lessons and interactive activities -Staying in one area with the computer/iPad during a lesson if possible. -Social skills to follow during teletherapy sessions (see visual in communication board section below) -Using the phone or video chats to keep in contact with friends and family -Taking breaks from the computer during the day to avoid burnout (this is important for parents and students) 	<p>Typically in the fall students get the opportunity to learn and practice language skills during field trips. In person field trips most likely will not be possible, but there are many virtual trips available online where students can still have fun and grow their language skills. Here are some fall themed virtual field trips below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fall virtual field trips- apple picking, farm on Long Island, Jack O'Lantern Tour, -25 Amazing Field Trips- Go explore some amazing areas such as Slime in Space, Zoo, Aquarium, Farm, Planetarium, Volcanoes, Nature Labs, Great Lakes, Smithsonians, other museums and more! -More Virtual Field Trips- Go visit an apple orchard, virtual farm tour, Ellis Island tour -Thanksgiving Mayflower Tour- Explore the historic <i>Mayflower</i> ship, anchored at Plimoth Plantation, in this 20-minute virtual field trip -Thanksgiving Day Parade of 2012- Watch the parade and visit this site to learn more! All About the Thanksgiving Day Parade -Best Halloween Festivals in NY- Check out some fun Halloween festivals and watch this video to see Fright Night in NYC Fright Night in NYC <p>In addition to field trips, students can learn language in fun ways during cooking activities and crafts. Here are some ideas below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Home Fun food recipes for kids to make for healthy eating- A website that contains healthy recipes for kids with pictures -10 Fun Fall Treats -Kid friendly fall recipes -58 Fall Crafts For Kids - Fall Activities and Project Ideas For Kids -Fun fall craft ideas for kids

[-How to Draw a Monster | Halloween Draw Along](#)- video modeling on how to draw a monster

Communication Boards and Visuals

Handwashing Boards

 I	 need	 more	 turn on
 water	 soap	 towel	 turn off
 hot	 cold	 dirty	 clean

1

wet your hands



2

put soap in your hands



3

rub your hands together while singing the ABCs



4

rinse your hands



5

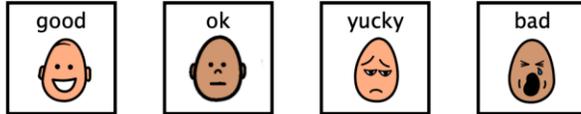
dry your hands



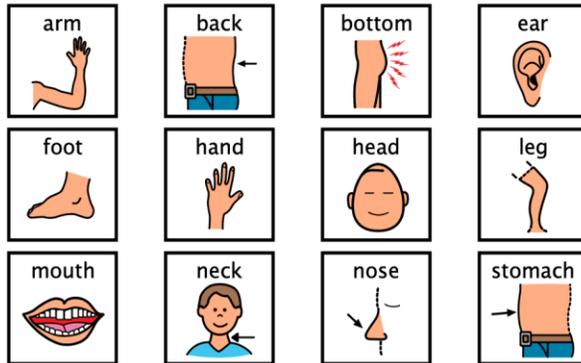
Feelings/Sick Board

Class Participation Board

How I feel?



What hurts?



These are a few symbols that can be laminated and worn around the neck to give your students visual tips on how they are doing with their behaviour expectations.

If you have any questions or topics that you would like us to address, please send an e-mail to: or BMandel6@schools.nyc.gov
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