

THE CITY SPEAKS

A PARENT NEWSLETTER BY DISTRICT 75 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PROVIDERS

David Banks, Chancellor

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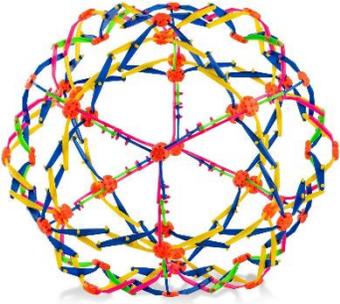
The Parent and Language Committee (PAL) writes “The City Speaks” newsletter to provide you with current information, tips, and ideas that relate to this year’s focus on **“Empowering Parents”** for a strong school to home relationship that will enable students to carryover skills to enhance overall learning. The theme for this issue is **“Building Learning Through Play at Home.”** The issue will offer some great suggestions for toys and games you can use at home to build on skills and vocabulary. In the classroom, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and more, teachers/providers will use play to build on vocabulary and pragmatic skills. Students are often more motivated through play and learn skills without feeling like they are really focusing on skills. Similarly, parents can use play to “work” on skills without the same resistance that might come with “work.” This can really support carryover from school to home. Please reach out to your in-school providers to discuss any of the topics or ideas written in our issue that can benefit your child. Your child’s providers can be an excellent resource for suggestions to work on skills and to create visuals or any supports for the home .

*Please note that throughout the document, written in blue are hyperlinks. If you click on them they will take you directly to the site with more information.

Building Skills Through Play

Play allows children to learn to navigate and react to their environment. Play skills are also a foundation for the development of higher-level speech and language functions, such as conversational turn-taking and problem-solving. Play is essential to development because it contributes to the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and youth. Different forms of play contribute to the development of different language functions. Play skills are frequently incorporated in speech-language therapy because of their direct connection to the development of various areas of language and social development. Additionally, playing is fun! The more fun and active opportunities you can provide a child with, the more you will allow them to increase their engagement. Rule-based “game play” is often built into speech activities to build on pragmatic skills including turn-taking and conversational exchange. During all types of play, we can incorporate gestures, facial expressions, visuals, and AAC to increase all forms of communication depending on the individual child’s needs.

Toys and Games Perfect For Home



[Click to buy expandable ball](#)

Target skills: fine motor skills, taking turns, following directions, waiting, deep breathing skills demonstration

Target vocabulary: open, close, wow, big, small, yes, no



[Click to buy Balloon Pump Toy](#)

Target skills: requesting for help, following steps to complete a task, motor planning to pump the balloon. Target vocabulary: more, go, stop, help, put on, wow, balloon, big



[Click to buy Pop! the Pig](#) Target skills: taking turns, color concepts, math-numbers, following directions, listening. Target Vocabulary: yes, no, go, my turn, your turn, colors, push, roll, one, two, three, four, red, purple, yellow, green



[Click to buy Hedbanz](#)

Target skills: taking turns, describing, vocabulary, following directions, listening

Target vocabulary: your turn, yes, no, target descriptive words (colors, foods, animals, shapes, etc.), good try, great job, Am I...?, you have....



[Click to buy Connect 4](#)

Target skills: taking turns, following directions, listening, can be combined with other target activities (articulation, asking questions, responding to questions, etc) before every turn

Target vocabulary: your turn, red, yellow, 4 in a row, good try, great job, good game, I win



[Click to buy Zingo](#)

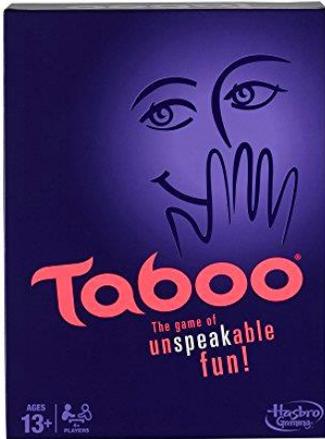
Target skills: taking turns, matching, vocabulary, following directions, listening

Target vocabulary: your turn, yes, no, target vocabulary words (colors, foods, animals, shapes, etc.), good try, great job, good game, I found it, I win



[Click to buy Guess Who](#)

Target skills: taking turns, describing, following directions, listening Target vocabulary: your turn, yes, no, "Does your person have...?" (eye color, hair color, clothing items, etc.), good try, great job, good game, I win

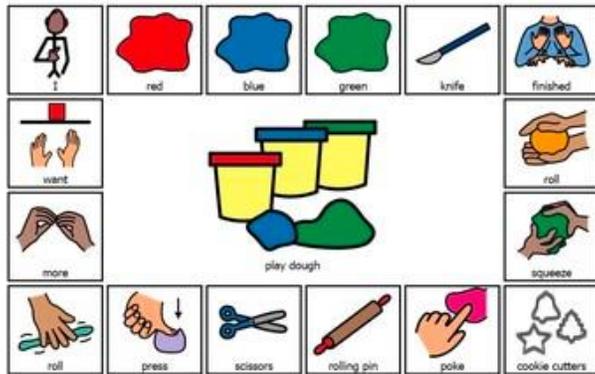


[Click to buy Taboo](#)

Target skills: taking turns, describing, vocabulary, following directions, listening Target vocabulary: your turn, yes, no, target descriptive words (colors, foods, animals, shapes, etc.), good try, great job, I win

Examples of “Visuals” to Use During Play

Below are examples of boards that can be created to use with games at home. Reach out to your speech provider if you would like visuals for your child’s favorite games or toys!



Playdough Board

General Board for Play

Resources and Activities for Summer

<https://www.kidsbowlfree.com/>- Registered children can bowl two games free every day at any participating bowling alley throughout NYC!

[Queens Zoo](#)

[Coney Island Beach & Boardwalk : NYC Parks](#)

[Staten Island Ferry](#)

[Puppetworks](#)

[Culture Pass](#) - Culture Pass is a program for cardholding patrons 13 and older from the Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library and Queens Public Library. Using their library card, New Yorkers can reserve a pass and get free admission to dozens of NYC museums, gardens and more!

Important Dates

Summer School- July 6th- August 15th

2023 Start of School- September 7th

If you have any questions or topics that you would like us to address, please send an email to: or bmandel6@schools.nyc.gov. Newsletter Prepared by: Anna Caba, Danielle Macy, Jessica Leifer and Betsy Mandel-Speech Supervisor.