

Speaking of Speech...

Dear Parents:

An important part of communication is called "pragmatics." That is the appropriate social use of language. Examples include being able to gain attention, begin and maintain a topic of conversation, requesting and refusing politely, asking for help when needed, and using an acceptable tone of voice.

Right now we are working on responding to directions. Some directions are appropriate and easy to follow; our response could be "Okay," "Sure," or "I can do that." Some directions are too hard for us to do without assistance; our response could be "I can't do that," or "I need help." Some directions might get us into trouble, as when peers dare each other to do things that are not permissible; our response could be "No, I'm not allowed," "No, I'll get in trouble," or simply "No way!"

As we practice making judgments about directions and responding accordingly in school, you may want to practice this at home. You can turn this into a fun game as you are riding in the car together, giving directions that are possible, impossible, and just plain wrong. For example:

"Touch your nose." ("I can do that.")
"Count to 10 and say the ABCs at the same time." ("I can't do that.")
"Drive the car for me." ("No, I'm not allowed.")

This practice will help your child make good decisions and give appropriate responses when given directions by adults and peers throughout life.

Thank you for supporting your child's speech/language program!

Sincerely,

Speech/Language Pathologist