

## **PRIORITY # 1**

### **NEEDS DESCRIPTION: To Improve Language Abilities**

**Type of Service: Home Instruction**

### **Recommended Teaching and/or Intervention Strategies for Parents**

Possibilities for development of speech and language in elementary and middle school happen in many situations. Language development at these ages are in the areas of vocabulary development, advanced grammar in spoken language and in written language and social language development. Story Telling: These can be stories from your life (my dad used to tell me great stories from his childhood out in the country), from your child's life (the story of how she was born or her first birthday, etc.) or they can be made up stories. It can be fun telling the adventures of your child's stuffed bear at bed time, for example. If you are not so creative, try retelling a story that you have read asking your child to fill in the blanks where you forgot some parts. If you have time you can check with the real book to see what you both forgot. Story telling helps to develop vocabulary and sequencing skills.

- Word Games: These are my favorite waiting-in-line games.
  - Tell me a toy that starts with "b"
  - Tell me food that starts with all the letters of the alphabet: apple, berries, cookie, doughnut...
  - Let's do opposites: what's the opposite of in, over, to, etc.
  - Tell me some things that have: legs, spots, wings, tentacles, etc. Tell me the things that are: slippery, tall, wide, perpendicular, etc.
  - What do you use for: eating, sleeping, playing basketball, etc.
  - For older students you might have to study up a bit: what is a land form that starts with m? (mountain is what I thought of), what are the kinds of frozen precipitation? (rain, sleet, and hail).
  - Another activity for older students to develop vocabulary is telling how words are the same and different.
- Social Language Activities:
  - The best way to teach social language is to model it or point out someone using good social skills. For example, if a person at the store says "Excuse me" when he reaches in front of you and you say "no problem," you could later mention how nice it was that he said "excuse me" because then you weren't so irritated about him reaching in front of you. If your child says good morning to a brother or sister you could say "I like the way you said 'good morning' that is a very friendly way to start the day."
  - Other kinds of social situations might not come up so frequently or when you are around so you might have to do scenarios. These you could do when you play with your child or you could talk about things such as "what would you do if..."
- Other Activities:
  - Give your child their own shopping list and have them tell you where they will go in the store to find it-categorizing skills.
  - Don't forget that older students (and adults too!) like being read to.