

THE POWER OF BOOKS

Almost any communication skill can be practiced while reading, listening or talking about stories. Here are some ideas for using books to target different areas of communication.

ARTICULATION

- Go on a sound hunt. Find words from the book that contain your speech sound.
- Read aloud. Can you use your sound correctly while reading?
- Retell the story after reading. Can you use your sound correctly while retelling?
- Answer questions about the book orally using your speech sound correctly.
- Make a list of all the words in the book that contain your speech sound. Read them and try to use them in a sentence.

LANGUAGE

- Take a picture walk through the book before reading. Talk about the pictures and makes guesses on what will happen in the story.
- Name or identify pictures in the book. Talk about the function of these objects.
- Find words from the story you don't understand. Use the context clues to help find the meaning.
- Compare and contrast the characters in the story.
- Answer questions about the story after reading. Where did the story take place? What was the problem? Who were the characters? How was the problem solved? What do you think will happen next?
- After reading, sequence the story. Tell what happened first, next, then and last.

FLUENCY

- Talk about the story as you read. What do you think will happen next? What does this story remind you of? Use smooth speech strategies while talking.
- Read the story aloud. Can you use smooth speech while reading?
- Answer questions about the story before, during and after reading using smooth speech.
- Discuss the parts of the story using smooth speech (ex. characters, setting, problem, solution, and events).
- Use self-monitoring strategies while reading and when discussing the book to help maintain smooth, easy speech.

PRAGMATICS

- Practice appropriate listening/reading skills such as good attention, taking turns, not interrupting and maintaining topic.
- Discuss the problem in the story. Brainstorm solutions for how the problem could have been solved differently.
- Discuss the characters in the story. Did they exhibit appropriate behaviors? Discuss their character traits.
- Discuss the solution of the story. Do you think it was the best solution?
- Talk about the relationships between the characters in the book. Can you find connections with similar relationships in your life?
- Was there a lesson to learn from this story? If so, what was it and how can you relate to it?

