

Speech and Language: Pragmatic, Body Language, Social Cues

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Disorders of the Corpus Callosum (DCC)

- Typical verbal skills may have speech and language difficulties
- Difficulties may range from subtle challenges to significant difficulties
- Social challenges may grow as a child grows

DCC Challenges May Include:

1. Speech Fluency
2. Speech Prosody
3. Word Retrieval
4. Social/ Pragmatic Language
 - Conversation
 - Body Language
 - Non-Literal Language

1. What is Speech Fluency?

When people can use smooth verbal language to convey thoughts and ideas.

Techniques to Support Speech Fluency

- Pacing board
- Breathing strategies/ calming exercises
- Practice response prior to giving response/ provide question prior to asking question
- Smooth verses bumpy speech
- Modeling
- Restating with fluent model
- Allowing completion of thought

What is Speech Prosody?

The rhythm, rate, pitch and volume used in speech to help convey meaning and intent of a verbal message.

Techniques to Support Speech Prosody

- Readers theatre
- Point out where stress lies: “I would like a brownie” vs. “I would like a **brownie**”
- Identify feeling of sentence

Techniques to Support Speech Prosody cont'd...

- Directly teach sarcasm (non-literal language)
- Raising eyebrows go along with answering a question
- Have child ID message/emotions of speaker

What is Word Retrieval Difficulty?

Difficulty coming up with a specific word.

Techniques to Support Word Retrieval Skills

- Phonemic cues- given to help generate a word
- Semantic cues- think of a word in the same category
- Cloze tasks- say a phrase to yourself and try and fill in the blank
- Antonyms- think of an opposite

Techniques to Support Word Retrieval Skills Cont'd...

- Synonyms- think of a word that has the same meaning
- Visualization- picture it written on paper or in your head
- Practice generating words and then ID their category; come up with words that belong to a specific category

Techniques to Support Word Retrieval Skills Cont'd...

- Compare words/ items: describe how words are alike and different
- Come up with a 'silent cue'
- Give choices
- Play games involving language ('Apples to Apples', 'Don't Say It', 'Taboo', 'I'm Thinking Of...')

What are Social/ Pragmatic Language Skills?

The ability to follow and adjust both verbal and non verbal social rules according to a given situation.

Many Components to Social/ Pragmatic Skills

- i. **conversation**
- ii. **body language**
- iii. **non-literal language**
- iv. personal space
- v. recognizing and understanding different
- vi. perspectives
- v. problem solving

What is Conversation?

An exchange of thoughts and ideas between two or more people. A conversation involves many components.

i. Conversation Includes:

- a. Topic maintenance
- b. Turn taking
- c. Entering and leaving a conversation
- d. Questions
- e. Comments

a. Topic Maintenance:

Discussing the same subject without changing the main idea.

b. Turn Taking:

Allowing others an opportunity to share and/ or add their own thoughts to a conversation.

c. Entering and Leaving a Conversation:

Joining a conversation that is already in progress or exiting a conversation.

d. Questions:

Used to gain information from others and show interest when an individual is talking.

e. Comments:

A follow up thought that relates to a presented question or statement.

Techniques to Support Conversation Skills

- Topic/Question/ Comment Activity
- Be a reporter
- Follow interest of child to address skills
- 'I'm Going on a Picnic' using one category to practice staying on topic
- Conversation Tree

Techniques to Support Conversation Skills Cont'd

- Story Sticks
- Lunch Bunch
- Peer Buddy
- Activity where need to ask for supplies
- Talking Stick
- Find Someone Who...
- Pass the ball (question, answer, comment)

ii. What is Body Language?

Non-verbal communication through the use of body movements, such as gestures, facial expressions and/ or positioning of the body to express feelings and thoughts.

Techniques to Support Body Language Skills

- Charades: to practice using and recognizing body language
- Visual cues for eye contact: sticker on forehead, eye stick, string contest
- Role play different scenarios and discuss what your body is trying to convey
- Explicitly teach how to express feelings through body movements (smiling, winking, shrugging shoulders)
- Explicitly teach the importance of Personal Space

Techniques to Support Non-Literal Language

- *Amelia Bedelia* by Peggy Parish
- *In A Pickle and Other Funny Idioms* by Marvin Terban
- Teach specific figurative language phrases
- Matching game

iii. What is Non-Literal Language?

The underlying exaggerated and/ or altered meaning of words in a phrase or expression.

Impacts of Speech, Language and Pragmatic Difficulties

- Decreased self-confidence
- Difficulty with social acceptance
- Isolation
- Decreased participation in group activities/ lessons
- Difficulty understanding social rules

Individuals respond to techniques and recommendations differently



- Be a detective
- Think outside the box
- Be creative
- Encourage children to blossom

ADVOCATE:

More than one person on board

Peers need to understand at a young age

Teach acceptance

Do not be shy in sharing challenges

Sometimes things that are the most challenging
can be the most rewarding

ALWAYS recognize strengths

IPAD APPS

Let's Be Social: \$14.99 – model and teach social skills and pragmatic language (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/lets-be-social-social-skills/id772244049?mt=8>)

StoryKit: free –story creation app with photo/picture and audio support for video modeling (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/storykit/id329374595?mt=8>)

Story Creator: free- story creation app with photo/picture and audio support for video modeling (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/story-creator/id545369477?mt=8>)

Comic Life: \$4.99- for perspective taking(\$4.99, <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/comic-life/id432537882?mt=8>)

IPAD APPS Cont'd...

iBookCreator: \$4.99 – embed videos and/or photos with narration for video modeling. (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/book-creator-for-ipad/id442378070?mt=8>)

Learn by Video app: \$.99- (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/learn-by-video-educational/id450834030?mt=8>)

Sock Puppets app : free- you create your own video by picking your sock character and having them use your words in the video (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sock-puppets/id394504903?mt=8>)
