

May is Better Hearing, Speech, & Language Month!

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Gum to the Rescue!

Having trouble getting a song out of your head? Gum might help.



Prior research has shown that jaw movement interrupts short-term memory and imagined sounds. A study by the United Kingdom's University of Reading found that gum may reduce those hard to get rid of sounds in our minds. Interestingly, this has the potential of easing broader unwanted, intrusive thoughts - possibly including obsessive compulsive disorder and similar conditions.

Words Matter: Social Competency

Using the term social competence connotes the complexity involved in social interactions. A recent article in the ASHA Leader brought this term to the forefront. Students with less obvious struggles with social-emotional learning, may resist help, blurt out, be taken advantage of, or have weak classroom performance, for a few examples. What may seem like a "mild" social skills problem, actually involves subtle but significant challenges in social competencies that can make it difficult for students to ultimately meet expectations of college, a job, and adult relationships.

Social competency includes a child's ability to use a set of social skills and self-awareness to know when, where, and how to use the skill in real time interactions. Words used to teach concepts and social behaviors affect the learning process in better navigating the social world.

Wolcott School

It has been a pleasure this school year being at Wolcott once a week. Wolcott is a college-prep high school built around students' strengths. As a consultant, it is wonderful to work with teachers who are not only skilled in their craft but eager to learn more.

PediaSource

PediaSource is a website that is a first-of-its-kind technology platform providing parents with one-stop access by phone to experts across 10 specialties that fall under the umbrella of child behavior, learning, and development. I am excited to be part of the panel of experts. www.pediasource.com

5 AREAS OF LANGUAGE:

1

SEMANTICS

Vocabulary

2

SYNTAX

Sentence structure

3

MORPHOLOGY

Small parts, like verb tense and articles

4

PHONOLOGY

Sounds; Relates to reading & spelling

5

PRAGMATICS

Social skills and competencies

Disciplinary Literacy

When students are in different classes, it is important for them think differently about what they are learning; to think differently about the demands of each subject.

“Noisy background environments may hinder early language learning.”

A recent study by the University of Wisconsin—Madison found that noisy environments, including music, TV, and simply people talking in homes can affect a child’s ability to learn new words at an early age. It is suggested that adults be aware of how much background noise there is when interacting with children and limit the noise. In quieter environments, children likely find it easier to grasp what objects new words refer to and eventually become proficient in learning new vocabulary.



ENGLISH:

Reading & Writing

- Expository essays - details with support
- Narratives - story grammar

MATH:

- All about problem solving
- Multiple ways to solve a problem, so show your work

SCIENCE:

- Exactness
- Vocabulary usage - Ex: dissolved=process of dissolution
- Charts & graphs important

HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:

- Dates matter
- Explain main idea AND add implications
- Source

AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER

What is auditory processing? As defined by Jack Katz, a speech-language pathologist, it involves what someone does with the information they hear. It refers to the ability to understand clearly what was just heard and to effectively use, remember, combine with visual inputs and maintain in sequence the information. It’s language! Below are some indicators:

- Difficulty locating source of sound
- Easily distracted or bothered by noise
- Does not remember simple directions
- Poor articulation
- Poor language (receptive or expressive)

