

Setting the stage for language learning related to community/home routines: "Parent Scripted Scenarios"

Using colorful language, become a family storyteller of the scene that is being observed. Becoming the narrator of every activity that you do!

Objective: To teach parents to become family storytellers of daily events so that children with hearing losses overhear parental scripted language building oral communicative competence.

Importance: Young children with hearing loss benefit from retelling of daily events helping them build sequential organization of the world within which they live. These sequential retelling experiences of daily events will develop oral language competence in children and organized, sequential thought processes.

Children with hearing losses will benefit from the oral telling and retelling of family events. Through scripting daily events, you will build oral language skills in your child. By helping set the stage for daily activities, you will also set the stage for first oral retelling experiences in your child. These retelling experiences lead to thought processes needed for producing written language.

Below are three scenarios and sample scripted language that you can use with a young child in multiple natural settings such as your family room, your kitchen, at bedtime or in the car.

Scenario #1: A Trip to the Grocery Store

Parent Input: "After lunch we will go to the grocery store. At the store you can help me. You can help me push the cart. You can help me fill the cart with food. You can help me pick out apples. You can help me get bananas. You can help me choose cereal. You can help me take all of the food out of the cart. We will watch the food be put into bags. You can help me take the food out of the bags at home."

Key Points in the Parent Script include: use of *repetitive language*, use of *sequenced information and sequential words* such as *after*

After lunch we will go to the grocery store. At the store you can help me. *You can help me* push the cart. *You can help me* fill the cart with food. You can help me pick out apples. *You can help me* get bananas. *You can help me* choose cereal. *You can help me* take all of the food out of the cart. We will watch the food be put into bags. *You can help me* take the food out of the bags at home."

Parent then listens and encourages the child to retell in response to the question prompt, "What are we going to do after lunch?"

Scenario #2: A Family Birthday Party

Parent Input: "Tomorrow it's daddy's birthday. We are going to Grandma's with daddy for his birthday. Grandma will make daddy a chocolate birthday cake. We will eat ice cream with daddy's birthday cake. Then daddy will open his presents. When we are all done opening presents, we'll come home. It will be time for bed."

Parent provides three sequential events in this scenario. Events are shared in order of occurrence. Parent provides child an opportunity to connect previous experiences with the scenario shared.

Scenario #3: Setting Expectations for an Older Child

Parent Input: "This week you are going to help me clean the house. Can you help our family by cleaning the house? I need you to do these three chores: take the garbage out on Tuesday, empty the dishwasher on Wednesday, and empty the upstairs wastebaskets on Friday. I'll leave three post its on your bathroom mirror with one of these three jobs labeled on each post it note. When you've completed the work I've asked you to do place the post it note on the family kitchen calendar. I'll trade you seven completed post it notes for a family video from Blockbuster."

Parent provides clear expectations, a topic sentence for the conversation, a concluding thought and an opportunity to pair printed language with orally stated language tasks.

Home Practice Prompts:

- ✓ Develop a scenario with your educator/coach describing an upcoming event that your child will participate in at church or within the community
- ✓ Develop a scenario with your educator/coach describing a trip to the cleaners to pick up dry cleaning
- ✓ Develop a scenario with your educator/coach describing a trip to Walmart for cleaning products
- ✓ Develop a scenario with your educator/coach describing a family activity