



April 20th, 2020



1. [Click here to watch today's circle time video](#)

2. Choose an activity to do with your child (click on the link)

[-Pete the Cat Coloring Pages](#)

-Follow along reading Pete the Cat on YouTube:

[ASL Version](#)

[Spoken English Version](#)

[Spanish Version](#)

[-Create your own sign for the Walk-A-Thon using a template Susie made with her daughter](#)

- Create a sensory walk for you child

-fill bins or trays with various materials (rice, water, sand, cotton balls, beans, corn starch and water) and allow your child to step in with their bare feet. If the materials feel too sensitive on their feet they can touch with their hands, or with gloves or socks on. Use words to describe the texture and feel of each material. This activity is a great to explore different sensations and work on some new vocabulary!



3. [Click here to watch Isabel's goodbye circle](#)

Alex's Speech and Language Tips

Going on a language-rich walk

Something as simple as going on a walk can be an excellent opportunity to model language. Here are some tips for modeling language on your next walk.

- Try to do **more describing and narrating and less asking questions and giving directions**. This may seem counterintuitive (since questions seem like a good way to get a response), but children need to hear/see lots of examples of descriptive sentences, and most adults tend to ask lots of questions without providing this kind of modeling.
- Keep your hands free when you're walking, so you can **model with spoken and signed language together**. When you take a break and stop walking for a minute, get down at your child's eye level and get in front of them, so you're easier to see and hear.
- As Carol and I discussed in our recent workshop, there are a couple approaches to this kind of narration-based language modeling. One is called **self talk**. For this, **describe what you're doing and experiencing**.
- Another common approach to modeling is called **parallel talk**. For this version, **describe what your child is doing and experiencing**. Try doing a mix of these two techniques.
- One of the best parts of language modeling on a walk is variety! Since your scenery is constantly changing, you can keep changing the focus of what you're talking about. **Try balancing repetition** (like repeating the verb "walk" many times throughout the walk) **and variety** (talking about all the different colors you're seeing at different points on the walk).
- **Take a few quick pictures** on your phone. Later, you can look at the pictures together **and talk about what you experienced**. In this way you can reinforce the language you modeled, and also practice additional language skills (like describing the order of events, or using past tense verbs).