

To the parent of:

My name is Amy Smider and I am the speech-language therapist at school.

Below are some activities that you can complete with your child to practice language. Each activity can be completed with story books, activities that are included, or toys in your home. With this practice at home, your child will make greater progress in school. It is important to speak your native language, for example, Arabic, at home with your child. By learning Arabic well, your child will learn English more easily.

1) Book Activity

Pick any book to read with your child. Use the pictures to tell a story. You do not need to read the words. Encourage your child to point at pictures with you. There are two skills which are important for your child to practice when reading books.

- First, it is important to make sure that your child can identify items on the page. For example, you can ask, “where is the _____?” and your child should point to the item or tell you where it is with words.
- Second, it is important that your child can answer a question. There are five question words you should practice with your child: *what, who, where, what is he/she doing, and why*. For example, you can ask, “what is this?” or “what is he/she doing?” or “who is in the picture?” or “why did the girl go to bed?”
- If your child does not know the answer, you can answer the question yourself. This is part of your child’s learning, and it is okay if they do not speak or imitate you when you ask a question all of the time.

2) Go Fish

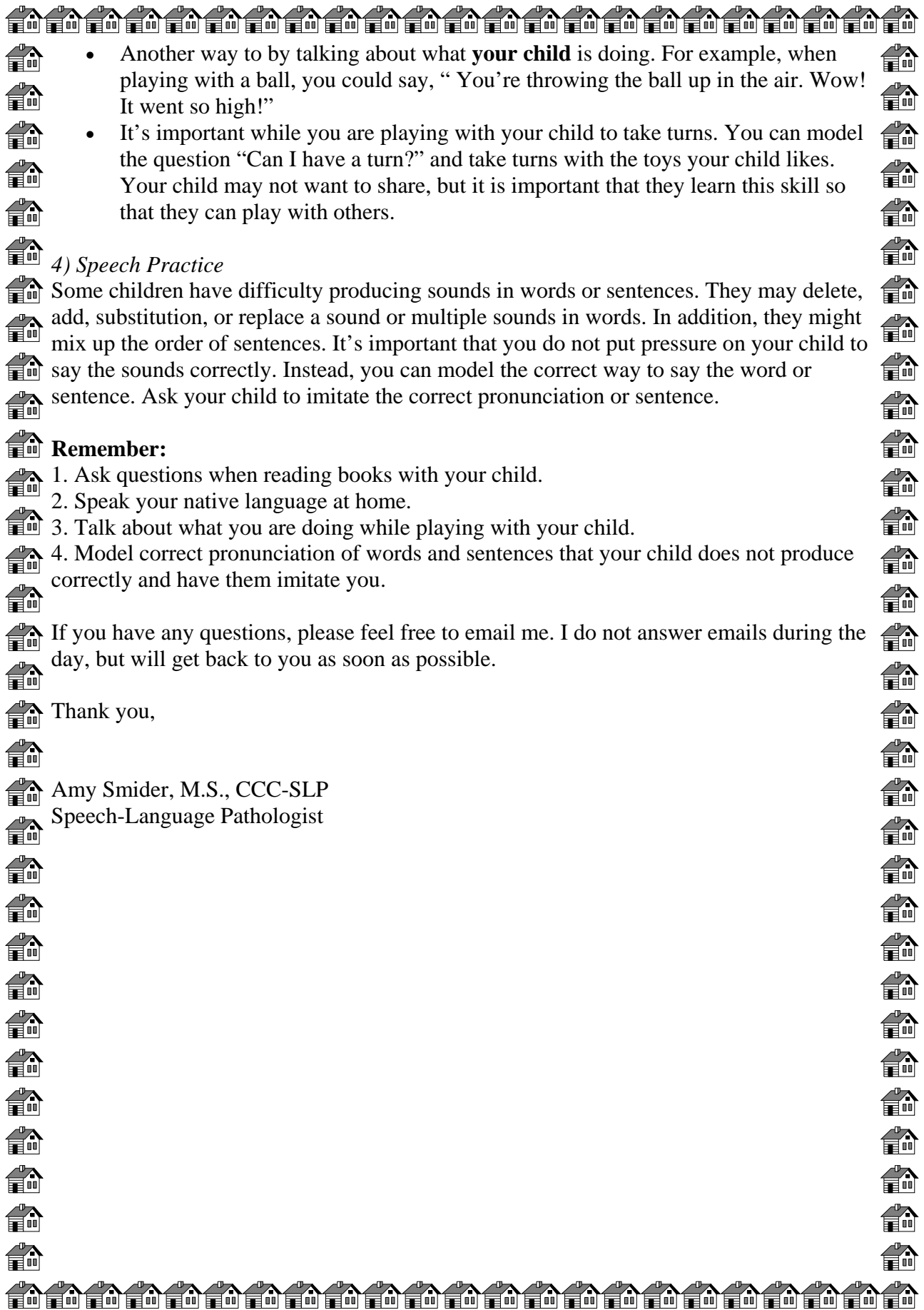
Attached is a handout you can complete with your child. This activity could be completed with a book such as “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?” or any book with animals.

- First, have your child color the pictures and cut them out. Teach them the animal names and color words by saying: “Look this bird is yellow” or “You colored the dog brown, nice job.”
- You can then play a game where you ask for a certain animal, just like the game Go Fish. Each of you will have 5 cards and you can ask each other “Do you have _____?” The rest of the cards go in a pile. If you get a match, you pick up a new card. Whoever gets the most matches wins.

3) Play Activity

It is very important to talk to your child while you are with them in the house. Playing a game with your child is a good opportunity to give rich models of the language you want your child to use. There are two ways you can give good models in the home with your child.

- One way is by talking about what **you** are doing. For example, when playing with cars, you could say, “I’m moving the car up the hill. It’s going very fast. I can’t wait to see my friend.”



- Another way to by talking about what **your child** is doing. For example, when playing with a ball, you could say, “ You’re throwing the ball up in the air. Wow! It went so high!”
- It’s important while you are playing with your child to take turns. You can model the question “Can I have a turn?” and take turns with the toys your child likes. Your child may not want to share, but it is important that they learn this skill so that they can play with others.



4) *Speech Practice*

Some children have difficulty producing sounds in words or sentences. They may delete, add, substitution, or replace a sound or multiple sounds in words. In addition, they might mix up the order of sentences. It’s important that you do not put pressure on your child to say the sounds correctly. Instead, you can model the correct way to say the word or sentence. Ask your child to imitate the correct pronunciation or sentence.



Remember:

1. Ask questions when reading books with your child.
2. Speak your native language at home.
3. Talk about what you are doing while playing with your child.
4. Model correct pronunciation of words and sentences that your child does not produce correctly and have them imitate you.



If you have any questions, please feel free to email me. I do not answer emails during the day, but will get back to you as soon as possible.



Thank you,



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