



## Communicators and the Holidays

### 7 ways to help your child's speech and language development

1. Bake cookies together! Cooking is a great life skill and a wonderful way to encourage language development at any age. Make a list of ingredients needed for your favorite cookies and take the list to the grocery store. Together you can talk about and even write out the steps needed to make your cookies, e.g.) roll out the dough, 2) cut out cookies, 3) put cookies on baking tray, etc. After your cookies are made, share them with other family members and encourage your child to share how they were made.
2. Include your child in decorating your house for the holidays! As you decorate your home, include your child and encourage the use of descriptive words, e.g. shiny, red, and sparkly, when describing your decorations. Ask your child WH questions about how to decorate the house, e.g. Where do you want to put this? What goes next? The questions (i.e. who, what, where, when, why) will encourage conversations about your activities together.
3. Making holiday crafts together. Whether you are making paper snowflakes or painting ornaments, talk about what you are doing in sequence, e.g. first we'll do \_\_\_ and then we'll do \_\_\_\_\_. Encourage your child to use this "first/then" vocabulary to describe what they are doing as well.
4. Sing holiday songs! Sing your favorite songs quickly or very slowly... make it fun! Use hand motions and gestures when you sing. Talk about the words in the songs that rhyme. Substitute other rhyming words into the songs you sing just for fun. Be silly and you may make up some new family favorites.



5. Visit the library and read books about the holidays or winter. Your local library most likely has created displays and collections of children's books for the season. As you read, point to pictures on the page and ask your child questions about what's happening in the story. With favorite storybooks, ask your child to share those stories and retell them to other family members.
6. For speech sounds, practice by naming things associated with the holiday that begin or end with early developing sounds of /p, b, m, w, t, d, k, g/.
7. Take digital photographs during special family events and all of the above activities. This way you'll be creating a visual diary of your time together and these photos can be used by your child to tell your family's holiday stories.

Enjoy,

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<https://childrensupportolutions.com/encouraging-your-childs-language-development>