



ASPIRE NEWS

YOUR COMMUNICATION EXPERTS!



HAPPY NEW YEAR

It feels good to put 2020 behind us and start the new year with renewed goals, aspirations, and energy for the work we at Aspire love to do. This past year was a challenge on so many levels. We learned that working together as a team, we can accomplish much.

Being separated from our clients and from each other has been difficult, but we know it is temporary and are making plans for restarting face-to-face services soon on a limited basis. 2021 holds much hope and promise for Aspire. Please stay safe, keep those you love in your hearts, and know that we will be together again.

-Kathryn Wage, Aspire Speech & Learning Center Founder

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Educational Tips

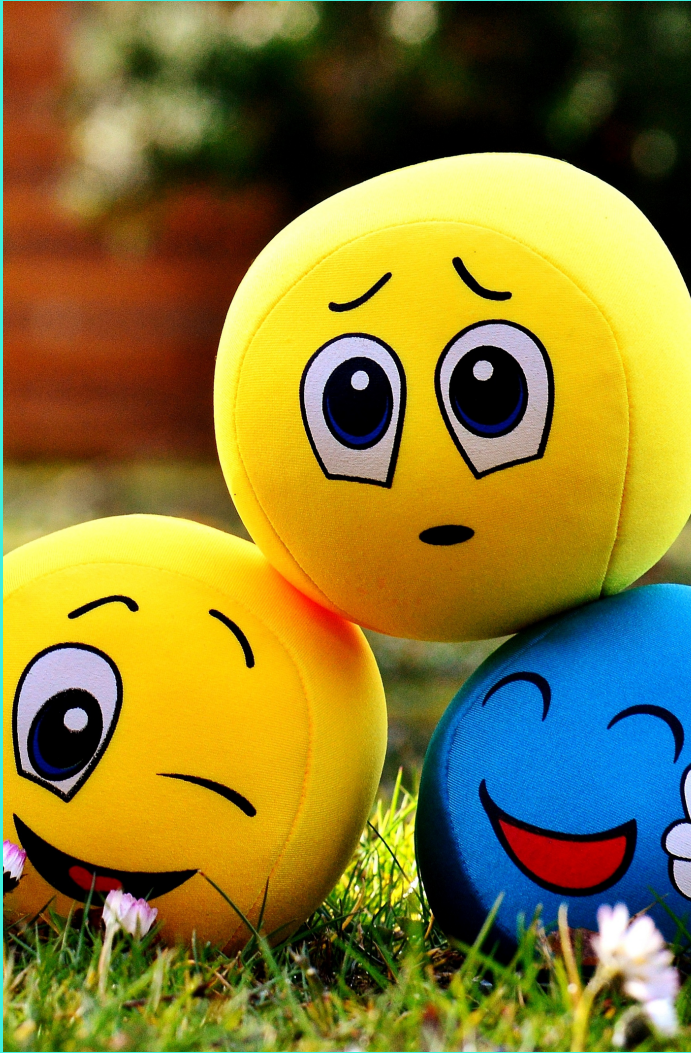
BY JORDAN REIJNDERS

Many children struggle when asked to write a paragraph. They are intimidated by the thought, saying “it’s too hard” or “I don’t know what to write”. We like to approach the question differently. “Can you write me a paragraph?” sounds hard. “Could you write five sentences for me?” sounds easy! Breaking the task down into parts that are already familiar will make a child less overwhelmed.

“But how do I write five connected sentences?” they may ask. Always remind them of who, what, where, when, and why. If a sentence is focused on each of these, they will find that they have completed a full paragraph. Ask them to tell you who, what, where, when, and why out loud; many find writing hard, but talking easy. Most children are happy to talk your ear off, so use it to your advantage.

”I am a parent of a child with Autism and have been coming to Aspire Speech & Learning Center for several years for speech and tutoring. I am very happy with the services and it is an exciting experience to watch him learn. The entire staff is awesome with Jordan. It’s like a family.”

-MONIQUE BUSTAMANTE, JANUARY 20, 2021



Building Language Through Play at Home

-by Shannon Johnson and Charity Davis

Did you know? Play is an important part of children's learning and development, especially in language!

Speech Therapist Shannon Johnson likes to use play in therapy sessions, and encourages parents to do the same at home. Play encourages speech skills by using toys and activities around the house.

"As a parent, you can guide the play to model language for them by using toys," says Shannon. "You can describe verbs and nouns around a toy, and can use turn-taking skills to model speech."

You want to say things like,

"I am throwing the ball."

"I am catching the ball."

"The ball is going in a box."

"The ball is coming out of the box."

"It is the color green."

"It's my turn for the ball."

You can have your child copy your words, or ask them questions about the toy or game. Modeling language and having a child imitate you, or answer questions while playing, creates a fun atmosphere around improving their speech skills.

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