

EXPLORE SPEECH & LANGUAGE AT....

Montgomery County Farm Tour & Harvest Sale

Saturday, July 25th and Sunday, July 26th throughout Montgomery County, MD



Explore participating farms throughout the county, participating in activities from petting zoos to pick-your-own fruits to wagon rides and practicing speech and language skills with your child throughout your journey.

TALKING

EXPLORE: Categorical Knowledge
ENRICH: Expressive Vocabulary
ENGAGE: The ability to name objects within a category



PARENT PROMPT:

- Farms are full of new and unique objects that fit into a variety of basic and subordinate (specific) categories. As you explore the environments and activities offered at the farm you are visiting, ask your child to name at least 5 objects in each of the following categories:
 - Farm animals (e.g. cow, pig)
 - Farm crops - you can explain that crops include fruits, vegetables, grains, etc. (e.g. corn, wheat)
 - Farm tools and equipment (e.g. tractor, shovel)



WORD PLAY

EXPLORE: Rhotic Vowels
ENRICH: Articulation of Individual Sounds for Clear Communication
ENGAGE: The ability to produce the six forms of vocalic /r/



PARENT PROMPT:

- There are six types of vocalic /r/ sounds - a vowel immediately follows and /r/ sound. They make the sounds -ar (as in garden), -er (as in truck) -or (as in horse), -ire (as in fire), -air (as in pear), and -ear (as in cash). Remind your child that to make a vocalic /r/, he/she have to make a smooth transition from the vowel to the /r/, tensing his/her tongue in the process.
- While exploring the farm, make a list with your child of at least three farm-related words that have each of the vocalic /r/ forms and have your child practice them in the following environments:
 - Word in isolation (e.g. tractor)
 - Word in a phrase (e.g. big tractor)
 - Word in a sentence (e.g. I see someone on a tractor)



LISTENING

EXPLORE: Inferencing
ENRICH: Higher-Level Oral Comprehension
ENGAGE: The ability to using inferencing to solve riddles



PARENT PROMPT:

- Riddles are a fantastic way to encourage higher-level comprehension skills in your child because they require them to inference, which involves using their background knowledge and the information or clues you provide them determine the answer. As you explore the farm, play "I Spy" and provide clues about animals and objects you see on the farm. Challenge your child to:
 - Solve clues about what the item looks like (e.g. I spy something that is pink, short, and fat . . . A pig)
 - Solve clues about the function of the item (e.g. I spy something that you use to dig holes . . . A shovel)
 - Solve clues about where the item can be found (e.g. I spy something that grows in a field on a stalk . . . Corn)



SOCIAL LANGUAGE SKILLS

EXPLORE: Polite social interactions
ENRICH: Social Use of Language
ENGAGE: The ability to ask for instructions



PARENT PROMPT:

- Most of the farms on the farm tour offer a pick-your-own option for a variety of summer fruits. This is a great opportunity for your child to practice asking for instructions and clarification, a skill which is vital in a learning environment. At the pick-your-own station, have your child interact with the farm staff and practice the following social language skills:
 - Initiate the conversation and ask for instructions for the pick-your-own produce (e.g. Excuse me - how does the pick-your-own strawberries field work?)
 - Ask a follow-up question (e.g. How can I tell if the strawberries are ripe? How much do the strawberries cost?)
 - Politely end the conversation (e.g. Thank you so much for your help.)

