

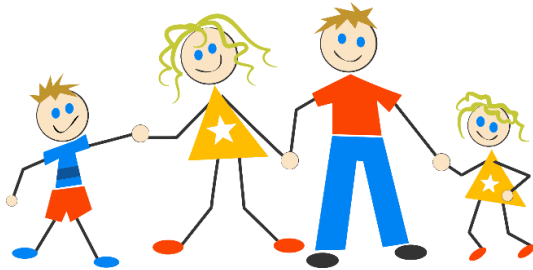
# DINNER JAR



Use these helpful prompts to create meaningful conversations.

## THINK ABOUT...

After children receive a cochlear implant or hearing aids and they are learning spoken language, it is very important that they hear many meaningful conversations. Imagine how fun it might be for the family to take turns talking about their favorite things, upcoming plans, hopes or dreams, or funny past events. Your child with hearing loss will be exposed to many different vocabulary words and complex language – plus everyone might learn something new or unexpected!



## ACTIVITY

- 1- During dinner time or another time where your family is gathered together, pull out the Dinner Jar. (You can rename this as it makes sense within your family.)
- 2- Have a member of the family draw out a slip of paper and read the prompt aloud. You can rotate who gets to draw. Go around the table or circle and have each person answer the question.
- 3- Be sure to highlight the “idea” phrases and words. (i.e. when I grow up, because of, excited for, tomorrow I will)
- 4- Allow your child to participate as much as possible when it is his or her turn, and celebrate any efforts. But even if your child has limited expressive language, don't underestimate the power of hearing the conversations happening during all types of family events or daily routines!

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Jar or container
- Dinner Jar Prompts (attached pdf)
- Make up your own questions

## PREPARATION

- 1- Cut the different prompts into slips of paper from the attached PDF. Add any additional ideas you have onto slips of paper. Add all the prompts and ideas into your jar. To make this jar unique and special, decorate it with your child if desired.

## VOCABULARY:

- When I grow up\_\_\_\_
- Today was good because\_\_\_\_
- I am excited for\_\_\_\_

## HELPFUL TIPS

- Always use a natural speaking voice when modeling language. Avoid speaking unnaturally slow and robotic. Remember, your child will match what he or she hears so make it as realistic and natural as possible.
- You can also incorporate whispering or even singing to emphasize a certain word or phrase.
- Remember, even if your child is in the early stages of development, the exposure to ideas and conversations are very important to future language.

*Special thanks to graduate students in the Listening and Spoken Language Deaf Education graduate training program at Utah State University. These pages can be reproduced for educational purposes.*

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## PROMPT IDEAS

- What is your favorite sound to listen to and why?
- What would you like to be when you grow up?
- What was something funny that happened today?
- If you could only have one toy, which one would you keep and why?
- If you could go with dad to work, what would you do there?
- If you could eat just one thing every day, what would it be?
- Who is your favorite friend at school?
- If you could live anywhere in the world it would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you had to make up a word, what would it sound like?
- What do you like about school?
- What do you dislike about school?
- Who is your favorite person to visit?
- Where would you like to go on vacation?
- What is your favorite book to read?
- Some things that make me happy are\_\_\_\_\_.
- What do you think mom was like when she was your age?
- What is your favorite room in the house?
- Who do you like better, Batman or Superman?
- If any of your toys could come to life, which toy would you pick?
- What is your favorite season of the year?
- When it's warm outside I like to\_\_\_\_\_.
- What do you like to do in the snow?
- What was your favorite part of yesterday?
- What is your favorite color?
- How old do you think your mom is?
- If you could fly, where would you go?
- What is something you are afraid of?
- What are you excited to do tomorrow?
- Today was good because\_\_\_\_\_.