

Tips to Encourage Speech Device Usage Over Summer

- 1 Get Familiar with Your Child's Speech Device:**
In order to assist your child in learning how to use their device, you need to learn how to use it yourself! Explore the device to learn where the words are that your child uses. Work closely with your child's Speech Language Pathologist so that they can support you and your child in learning how to use their Speech Device.
- 2 Model, Model, Model!**
In order for your child to learn how to use their device, they need to see others using it too! They need to hear the language that you want them to use and see where it is on their device in order to use it themselves. When you are talking to them, use the device to say the words you are speaking verbally as well. Get other family members involved to make it fun for everyone!
- 3 Individuals benefit from others using their Speech Device to communicate with them.**
What does your child like to do? Do they enjoy music? A certain toy? Playing outside? Set up the environment for success! Make sure their device is present during those motivating activities and you know where the words that they can use are on the device. Encourage your child to use the device to request (e.g. more swing), respond (e.g. yes/no), ask questions (e.g. can I pick a song?), or comment (e.g. I like my blocks.)
- 4 Be Consistent!**
We know that learning something new takes time and practice. The same can be said about learning to use Speech Device. Set aside time each day to dedicate to focusing on working with your child on using their device. Make sure you have the device available for any communication opportunity that may occur.

