

What is *Talkies*?

Talkies, a program that develops the imagery-language connection.

Designed for:

- ◆ young children
- ◆ children with weakness in receptive and expressive oral language skills
- ◆ children on the autism spectrum.

Goal of *Talkies*:

- ◆ bring the sensory input of imagery to a conscious level
- ◆ to connect that imagery to language processing.

What is imagery and why is it important?

Imagery is a sensory-cognitive function that is basic to many types of language processing. There are two types of imagery ability: Parts (Symbol Imagery)
Whole (Concept Imagery).

Symbol Imagery- processes parts (letters)

- ◆ ability to create mental representations for sounds and letters within words.
- ◆ necessary for reading and spelling words.
- ◆ Develops strong phonemic awareness, word attack, word recognition, spelling, paragraph reading accuracy, and contextual reading fluency.

Concept Imagery- processes whole

- ◆ ability to create mental representations for a whole
- ◆ necessary for language comprehension and expression, critical thinking, problem solving, following directions and creativity.

What are some symptoms of weak concept imagery?

- ◆ Tendency to process “parts” more than, or rather than, “wholes”
- ◆ Experience difficulty with conceptual, critical, logical, and abstract thinking.
- ◆ Difficulty grasping oral language, whether stories, conversations, or lectures.
- ◆ Weak reading comprehension
- ◆ Difficulty following oral and written directions.
- ◆ Experience weakness in verbal expression
- ◆ Experience difficulty in social situations. Difficulties in reading social situations. May prefer own company.
- ◆ Difficulty getting humor.
- ◆ Difficulty grasping the concept of cause and effect.

Talkies can be used both remedially and developmentally.

Remedially, *Talkies* is appropriate for a student of any age with two specific areas of weakness:

- ◆ poor oral vocabulary
- ◆ delayed receptive/expressive language.

Developmentally, *Talkies* is beneficial for all young children

- ◆ between the ages of 2 and 5
- ◆ preschool through kindergarten and 1st grade.



How does *Talkies* help?

Talkies has a pattern of lots of little steps within big steps with the explicit goal of bringing the sensory information of imagery to a conscious level for students. The little steps are purposely repetitive practice. They consistently move through a sequence of receptive practice, expressive practice, and imagery practice.

Students start by describing a given picture using structure words. The students gradually advance step by step through picture imaging, word imaging, phrase and sentence imaging, sentence by sentence imaging, sentence by sentence imaging with higher order thinking skills, and multiple sentence, paragraph, and whole page imaging with higher order thinking skills.



Apple



Meet the Instructor



Karen Vavra is a certified early childhood and elementary teacher. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a Minor in Early Childhood Development and Speech and Hearing. She also has a Master of Arts Degree in Mental Health Counseling. Karen has received training in the Talkies Program through Lindamood-Bell. She has worked with children and families in a variety of settings including over 5 years in Battle Creek, Michigan with children and adults who have auditory and visual processing problems.

For more information about this program please contact Maureen at maureen@springtides.org or (319) 365-1006

Springtides, Inc.
2215 Westdale Dr. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
www.springtides.org

If I can't picture it, I can't understand it."
~ Albert Einstein

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