

# 10 Great Tips

## for Promoting Language Development and Communication in Children with Autism



The diagnosis of autism often comes with the  
five-letter disclaimer: **NEVER**

Your child will  
**NEVER** speak  
**NEVER** go to college  
**NEVER** hold a job



Our experience as speech  
therapists has proven otherwise.

While there are no guarantees in life for any child, the word **NEVER** should not be used. The world is changing. New therapies are emerging. New Muppets are promoting acceptance. New success stories are being shared.

Here are our  
**10 Great Tips** for  
**Promoting Language Development  
And Communication:**



#1

# JOURNAL THEIR JOURNEY

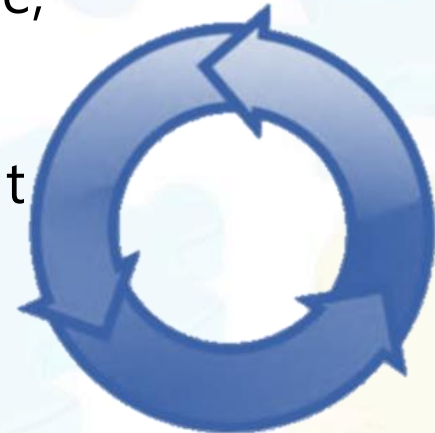
In the course of the journey, we often forget where we started and are easily distracted by unmet goals rather than progress. By journaling the process, we can create a visual map of progress without losing sight of the end goal.



#2

## REPEAT AND REINFORCE

Repeat and praise every single sound your child makes. Then use that sound, for example, “dad” to expand to daddy, dog, and down. Keep repeating and expanding. It may sound repetitive to you, and maybe even boring, but repetition can be ultimately rewarding.



#3

## SPEAK LESS



While this may sound counterintuitive, bombarding a child on the spectrum with long sentences can be overstimulating and make it difficult to imitate. Try saying “big ball” rather than saying “Here is the big ball.”

#4

# USE VISUALS

As therapists, we find using visuals to explain concepts like first and last, aka sequencing, or even to map out a daily schedule, concepts and ideas, enhances learning.



#5

## LET YOUR CHILD LEAD

When it comes to a game, let your child choose what to play, where to play and with whom to play. Then interject your own language-related goals to add dimension to the activity.





#6

## CONFINE FOR CONTACT

Use a high chair or booster for as long as possible. Buckle your child in to promote face-to-face communication, strong eye contact and increase focus and attention. If feeding is an issue, use two separate chairs, one for feeding and one for "other" so the negativity associated with food does not interfere with the chances of "other".



#7

# FACILITATE CONNECTIONS WITH COMPUTERS

As the founder of Great Speech, I have seen firsthand the all-around benefits of online vs. traditional speech therapy. But the use of technology is especially effective with children on the spectrum, who often have a natural affinity for computers rather than people.



#8

# INCLUDE YOUR CHILD IN THE CONVERSATION

Our training and experience has proven how much children understand even when they do not speak. Remember not to speak about them when they are right in front of you. Instead talk to them.



#9

# PARTICIPATE IN THE THERAPY



Join or attend speech therapy sessions whenever possible. The carryover of skills and strategies from the therapy sessions are essential for success.

#10

# ENTER THEIR SPACE

Every child has an ideal personal environment which can be a major factor in creating expectations for personal progress. Finding that personal zone is a challenging task. Experiment with the pitch of your voice, facial expressions gestures, noise levels and animation until you find the combination which elicits the most responses.



# We are Great Speech

We are the pioneers of virtual speech therapy.

Your communication is too important to trust just anyone. Our industry-leading therapists have transformed the lives of thousands of children and adults since 2014.

Our unique model produces results for people of all ages and conditions — AND it's convenient and engaging. In fact, **our clients tell us that sessions don't feel like "therapy work."**

Speech is how you communicate your thoughts; it's what we hear. Language is what you want to say; it's what we think.

When you have great speech and language, you express yourself fully and connect successfully with others.

**We'll work with you to develop your unique, specialized plan** and unlock your most powerful communication.

**Whether you're seeking services for yourself or a loved one,  
you've come to the right place.**

**Online speech therapy programs give everyone the chance to communicate with ease and confidence.**

**No matter what our client's goals are, we can help.**

**Get Started Today!**

