(The Speechie Show Ep.26)

Welcome to the Speechie Show! Being a speech-language pathologist often means having too much work and not enough planning time. To beat the overwhelm, we’re bringing you the tricks and tools that will make your job a little bit easier.

**Carrie**: Hello everybody and welcome to the Speechie Show. I am your host Carrie Clark from [speechandlanguagekids.com](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/) and I am here today with Leia Knight with [languagefortheplayground.com](http://languagefortheplayground.com/). How are you Leia?

**Leia**: Hi I'm good thanks.

**Carrie**: Good, so glad to have you on today. We are talking about language samples. So, if you are having trouble getting some excellent language samples, Leia is here to share with us five tips for collecting those language samples and getting some really good ideas of what kind of language skills these children have. So, while we are waiting for everybody to hop on the Facebook Live, if you are on with us now go ahead and type in where you're watching from. I'd love to know where everybody is today. Alright so if you're new to the show, my name is Carrie Clark and I run [speechandlanguagekids.com](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/) and the Speechie Show. We do this every week, every Monday afternoon. We have had a few weeks off as we had some illness and some cancellations. So, we are here today and we are back on track and we are talking to Leia. Why don't you go ahead and give us an introduction about yourself, Leia?

**Leia**: Okay. So, my name is Leia Knight and I am a deaf educator specialized in listening and spoken language. So, language is my favorite and I work in a preschool with children for special needs.

**Carrie**: Fantastic. And you have a website over at [languagefortheplayground.com](http://languagefortheplayground.com/), right?

**Leia**: Yes

**Carrie**: And tell us what you have going on over there.

**Leia**: So first I labeled it, or called it Language for the Playground because I really like doing the approach of like social skills and language and how it's going to apply in real life. So, on the playground what are you going to do? So, it's all about language and social skills.

**Carrie**: Fantastic! So, if you're looking for some help with your social skills and your language students head on over there to [languagefortheplayground.com](http://languagefortheplayground.com/). Alright, we're going to jump in now with our five tips for language samples. So, the first we're going to talk about today is using picture books. Leia, talk to us about how you use picture books and your language samples.

**Leia**: So first I love to give kids a reason to talk and I feel like picture books are awesome for that because especially if they can't read yet then they have a reason to be talking about it. And so, I like to use wordless picture books because there's a lot going on in the pictures to talk about and I also like to use an app, it's called the [Imagistory](http://imagistory.com/). It's like a wordless picture book from an app and it recorded their voice. So, I like to use those because it gives them a reason to talk and you can just like let him fly and see where they go with it.

**Carrie**: Perfect. So that, if you missed that, that's the [Imagistory app](http://imagistory.com/) and we will have that link in the show notes. I also I love using books for language samples, too. And I actually had a friend of mine do her master's thesis on what kinds of books elicited the most language. So, when did the kids start talking the most. And I thought it was really fascinating. What she found was when she used non-fiction books with pictures, of course with the smaller children, that got the most language. And I think that it was those real pictures; you know it's pictures about dinosaurs or airplanes and there's a lot to talk about in those non-fiction books as opposed to some of the character books. Like the Dora books or the Elmo books where everything's kind of already put together and laid out and there's not really much more to talk about or explore. So, I just thought that was kind of a fun study. That if you use non-fiction books you're expanding their literary repertoire, but you're also getting better language samples. Alright, so the next step we are going to talk about then is using an expectant look. So, Leia, tell us what this looks like in your language samples.

**Leia**: So the expectant look is the look that says "what, tell me more". hahaha Sorry! So, this is going to be like the silliest thing ever. So, the preschool person that I am. So, I give an expectant look like it's your WOW OH WHAT! Just like be super excited. Another expectant look is like “oh that doesn't make sense” like...hahaha. And kids just feel compelled to respond when you look really silly like that. I like to use that one. And it just happens on the fly, however your look comes out at the moment.

**Carrie**: Yeah, I also like to pair this one with a very expectant pause. Because the longer you just wait in silence the more like the child feels like okay well now I got to say something because she looks crazy and she's just standing there. Hahaha. So, absolutely pair that expectant look with an expectant pause. What? And then just kind of wait. Sometimes you have to wait a little longer than you even feel comfortable doing, but it definitely helps. Alright, so we've talked about using picture books and we've talked about the expectant look. So, the next thing we're going to talk about is using some open-ended questions. How do you use these in your language samples?

**Leia**: So I love to use the expectant looks like that start with “I want”. Expectant looks… hahaha, I mean open-ended questions. I like to start with words like “oh, I wonder” and “how did this” and “how” and “why”. Because it naturally asks the question in a way that the child is going to give you a full sentence response. Versus asking like “do you like it”. Yeah. Oh, I just killed the samples. Hahaha. First, it's like “I wonder what they're going to do next” and then the child is more likely to say like “oh, I think” versus “just go to the store.” It'll be like “oh, I think they're going to go to the store.” So just using like the phrases “I wonder”, and the how/why questions just to get longer phrases back.

**Carrie**: Absolutely. We did a Speechie Show not too long ago and I can't remember who the guest was, but we were talking about using storybook reading. And she was talking about exploring the book with the child. So, as you open the page you say” oh wow! I see this thing.” “I wonder.” You use these open-ended questions and you act like you're really excited about discovering what's happening in the book because you're going to get some of that excitement to the children too. And I think you're right. I think that gives a better representation of what kinds of language skills they have as opposed to just answering questions they can answer with a single word. Love it. Alright, now if you are on here with us on Facebook Live please stay tuned. We are going to do some giveaways here in just a moment. We're doing two giveaways today. So, let's talk about our last 2 tips and then we'll move into resources and giveaways. Okay so we talked about picture books, expectant looks, and open-ended questions. The fourth tip we have today is propelling words. What are some propelling words and how do we use them?

**Leia**: So I like to pair these words with the expectant look. But it's the words “like seriously” and “like really” and “like oh wow.” Just things like that. Actually, okay so like my favorite preschool story was-I was using this to elicit a language sample and so I told my little friends “like seriously.” and he was “like I'm serious.” So now I try not to say “seriously” too much because then they'll just confirm that they're serious, but using like the “oh wow.” You know cuz it invites them; they want you to tell them more because this is interesting. And at the same time, you're not feeding them exactly what to say. It's just whatever they're going to say and so it's a lot more naturalistic in their response.

**Carrie**: I love that. I do that with my son. I didn't even really think about what I was doing but I'll say like, are you sure? Or tell me more. And then he just kind of goes off about something you know, so I do that too, but I just never even thought about that as a language sample technique. I love it. Alright, the last tip we have for you today before we're doing our resources and giveaways is sabotage. Tell me about sabotage. How do you like to sabotage your language samples?

**Leia**: Any way possible. My favorite way is kind of on-the-fly. I like not planning it because I feel so much more natural for me. Like one time I was running a snack activity and we were frosting cupcakes and cookies and talking all about that. And then I thought, wow what if I got the frosting on my nose. And so, as I ate my cupcake I just kind of like, clunk in my face. Oops now there's like pink frosting all over my nose and I just ignored it and my graduate supervisor is in the back (pointing to her nose to get my attention) ...

**Carrie**: Hahahahahaha.

**Leia**: And I was like, I know.

**Carrie**: We've got this! Hahaha.

**Leia**: And then like 10 seconds later you know one of the Little Friends looks up and says, hey you've got something on your nose. And I was like, is it up here? And he got to use all of his spatial consonances telling me where it was and what it looks like. Because it was just so like Leia, you're so silly. It just got them talking a ton. So, frosting is really good for sabotage. Yeah, like so other things you can do is like dump everything on the floor on " accident". Just everything like that. Or just holding a book upside down when you're going to read it. Just something that they are going to correct you with.

**Carrie**: Yeah. I also like to do this where you just don't give them something that they need. So, you're like sitting down with snack and you've got their pudding and you give them their pudding in the little cup and you're like okay, enjoy! And then you just sit there like, why aren't you eating, hahaha. And they're like, I don't have a spoon. Oh, okay, haha. So yeah, I like to give them everything they need except for one thing and just kind of see how that evolves, too. Perfect, alright. So those are our five tips today for collecting great language samples. We're going to talk about some fun resources and we're going to do a couple giveaways so hang tight with us if you're on Facebook Live. So, what are your favorite resources for collecting language samples, Leia?

**Leia**: Okay so my two favorites. One, the [Imagistory app](http://imagistory.com/) because also it will record their speech. And so, like if you miss anything in the language sample you still got it. And then the kids can listen back and hear themselves telling the story which gets them talking even more.

**Carrie**: Nice.

**Leia**: My second-favorite resource is Little Critter books, because there's so many things happening in the stories. And it's not just the text on the page. There are so many little social cues, things to comment on like, “oh he says he's happy but he looks sad.” There's just a lot to talk about and pick up on as you look at those books.

**Carrie**: Yes, I love Little Critter books. How long have those been around for? Because I had one earlier today that I was looking at and I was like I swear this is like made in the 60’s, hahaha. I don't know if that's true or not but I feel like they've been around forever.

**Leia**: Well my whole life, hahaha.

**Carrie**: Yeah right! I read them as a child. Hahaha. Alright, Jessica Olaer has a question. She says, what should you do when they use nonspecific words like “here” or “there” or “that” or “thing?” What do you do for that to try to elicit better language out of them?

**Leia**: I just give them the wrong thing. Like, if I know the Child's favorite thing is like the red Play-Doh. And they're like, oh you know I want that one. So, they're being specific with the one. I'll give them something like, kind of like a spoon just something totally off. And then I have to correct me and they're like, oh I want the Play-Doh. And then okay I give them the wrong Play-Doh because I want them to get that specific. And they're like, no the red Play-Doh. So, I just play dumb and act like I don't understand.

**Carrie**: Yes! That was what I was going to suggest too, is just like I don't have any idea what you're talking about and I just must be so confused. I just gave you the spoon why, didn't you want to spoon. Hahaha. I love it. She says thank you. Good. Alright, perfect. We're going to do a couple giveaways and then we're going to wrap up for today. For our giveaways today, we are doing two giveaways to the [Speech Therapy Solution](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/become-a-member/), which is my membership site. Usually we have a guest do a giveaway, but Miss Leia is just getting started with her blog and website, so all I can tell you is just go visit it and check it out. She's got some cool stuff over there. So, you can go to [languagefortheplayground.com](http://languagefortheplayground.com/). So, you can head over there. Or if you'd like to know more information about the [Speech Therapy Solution](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/become-a-member/), you can head on over to [speechandlanguagekids.com/join](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/become-a-member/). We are going to give away two free months to two different people today. This is the membership that you get continuing ed, you get resources that you can print out, therapy activities that you can print out and use during therapy. There's also training materials. There's all kinds of help and we answer your questions. That is [speechandlanguagekids.com/join](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/become-a-member/) and we are going to give away two free months right now. So, here's how it works. I'm going to ask a question slash give a prompt and I want you to type it into Facebook Live. The first two people that answer are going to win. So, here's the question. What is your favorite way to sabotage a child during your language sample? So, go ahead and type that in if you are on Facebook Live with us right now. If you're watching the recording later you don't get to participate, but you can always head over to the Speech & Language kids Facebook page on Monday afternoons and participate in the next giveaway. We do this every week or most weeks, anyway. So, what is your favorite way to sabotage a language sample. You can type those in and the first two people are going to win two free months in the [Speech Therapy Solution](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/become-a-member/). Alright, Jessica says not keeping the glue closed and making them request to open. Yes, I love it. Anything, where they have trouble accessing the materials, is awesome. Alright, Jessica, you're going to win two free months. Not keeping it open, yeah that's what you meant. So, they have to ask open it. Jessica you're going to get two free months in the [Speech Therapy Solution](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/become-a-member/) and you can email me at carrie@speechandlanguagekids.com and my assistant, Kena, will get you hooked up for your two free months, congratulations! Alright we have one more winner to go so, keep commenting in. Okay, Tara Marie says present them a secure box filled with a preferred item. Absolutely. Make them again ask to open it. Alright, Tara you can email me as well at carrie@speechandlanguagekids.com and you two will get the two free months. Alright, that's all we have for today. Join us next week on the Speechie Show on Monday afternoon and will have another fun show for you. And Leia, thank you so much for joining us today. Where can people find more about you and your awesome new blog?

**Leia**: So my blog is [languagefortheplayground.com](http://languagefortheplayground.com/). I'm Leia, and you guys can head on over to comment and share your insights. I'd love to hear from you.

**Carrie**: Perfect, wonderful! Well, welcome to the SLP blogging community and we're excited to have you.

**Leia**: Thanks!

**Carrie**: Alright, we'll see you guys next week. Head on over to [speechandlanguagekids.com](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/) and check out all the resources we have over there as well. Bye for now.

Thanks for joining us today Speechie Show. We hope today's tips have helped you feel a little less stressed and a little more confident about your work. If you’re looking for more stress busters and confidence boosters, we’d love to have you join us in The Speech Therapy Solution, where you’ll get access to a huge library of premium training videos and another library of print and go therapy materials. You can also get help with your tough cases by joining Carrie on the weekly Q&A calls, or by posting in the exclusive Facebook group. Plus, group members can join us for a monthly webinar that can be used for a continuing education credit. Head on over to SpeechandLanguageKids.com/join to check out all the amazing benefits of the speech therapy solution membership. Bye for now.