

TALK TIME

BOSTON, MA



In Otter Words

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



APRIL IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

This month is Autism Acceptance Month! On our Instagram account, we have made an effort to share information about autism to help educate others about this neurodiverse population. But, we are not autistic and so we also took the time to listen to and amplify the voices of autistic individuals to spread awareness and acceptance.

Autistic children are different from neurotypical children, but different is not wrong. Autism does not need to be "cured" or "fixed". In fact, masking behavior (i.e. when autistic individuals hide their autistic traits) is harmful. We encourage everyone to keep learning from autistic individuals so we can support them in finding authentic and meaningful connections.

At Talk Time Boston, we provide neurodiversity-affirming treatment that focuses on self-advocacy, inclusion, and empowerment for our autistic clients. We are also educating ourselves around gestalt language processing and neurodiverse communication styles.

We are grateful to our autistic clients who have taught us so much. And even though April is over, we will continue to listen and learn.

Alessandra Spaulding
Executive Director of Talk Time Boston

Monthly Highlights

New Blog Post:

The Unspoken First 4/7/2022

Let's Discuss:

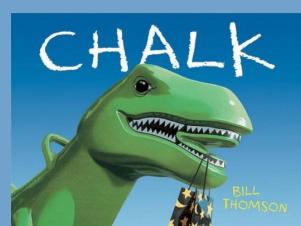
Developmental Stuttering
Instagram Post 3/30/2022

Early Gestures

Instagram Post 4/16/2022

Book of the Month:

Chalk
Ryan T. Higgins





**ARE YOU A
FOLLOWER?**

We have tons of FREE information for parents and caregivers on our Instagram account:

@TALKTIMEBOSTON



If you enjoy our posts and reels, please like, comment, share, and save our posts to help us grow!



STRATEGY Spotlight O.W.L.

O.W.L. is an acronym from the Hanen Language Program to help parents follow their child's lead during play:

OBSERVE - Watch your child as you play. Follow their eye gaze, gestures, and body language

WAIT - Give your child time to communicate or react. What does waiting look like? Stop talking, lean forward, look expectant!

LISTEN - Try to understand your child when they communicate. Respond to their attempts or imitate what you heard and see if they clarify their message.

Why do we love this strategy?

- It builds CONNECTION.
- It HONORS your child at the level where they are.
- It is a PASSIVE strategy that doesn't put any demands on your child during play.



Gestures DEFINED

Gestures are “physical actions performed with the intent to communicate” (Iverson & Thal, 1998).

Children typically begin to use gestures as early as 8-9 months. Gestures can be *social* (like pointing, waving) or *symbolic* (like blowing or shrugging).

Early Gestures	Word	Approx. Age	Later Gestures	Word	Approx. Age
SHOWING/GIVING	"LOOK", "I WANT"	9-12 MONTHS	BLOWING KISSES	"MWAH"	9-12 MONTHS
ARMS UP	"UP"	9-12 MONTHS	POINTING (OPEN HAND TO INDEX)	LOOK	10-14 MONTHS
REACHING	"I WANT"	9-12 MONTHS	GIVING HIGH FIVE	"WOOHOO"	12-15 MONTHS
CLAPPING	"LOOK"	9-12 MONTHS	SHAKING HEAD NO	"NO"	13-15 MONTHS
WAVING	"HI", "BYE"	9-12 MONTHS	NODDING YES	"YES"	16-18 MONTHS
"GIVE ME" (OPEN/CLOSED GRASPING)	"I WANT"	9-13 MONTHS	SHRUGGING	"I DON'T KNOW"	16-24 MONTHS

What can you do to support gestures?

1. Model gestures in play with your baby
2. Always say the verbal word with the gesture
3. Respond to your baby's use of gesture

Check out the blog post on our website for specific examples of how to practice these gestures in your daily routines!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TALK TIME BOSTON!

JUNE 1 -- Enrollment for parent modules begins

JULY 28 -- Birth to Birthday and Beyond Module Begins

JULY 30 -- Talking with Your Toddler Module Begins

AUGUST 1 -- Comprehensive Evaluations and Parent Consultations available

SEPTEMBER 1 - Weekly therapy sessions begin at Talk Time Boston

(Sign up for the waitlist on our website to be among the first contacted for evaluations and therapy slots in the late summer!)

Where do otters come from?

Otter space!