

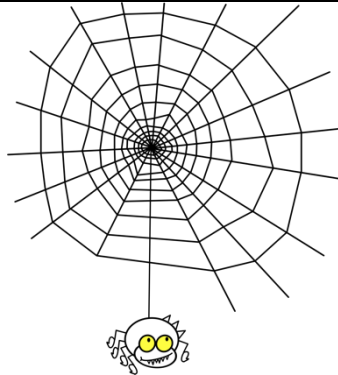
# SPIDER WEB WALKING



## A LISTENING GAME FOR THOSE ON THE MOVE

### THINK ABOUT...

A child with hearing loss may unknowingly miss out on crucial parts of a direction or conversation - typically called critical elements. This activity is designed to help your child pause and practice listening to all parts of a descriptive direction to increase understanding. Building this skill of listening for critical elements will not only help your child be able to more accurately follow directions, but build the foundation for listening for meaning, an important skill for success in the classroom and at home.



### ACTIVITY

- 1- Follow the PREPARATION steps described (see column to the right).
- 2- Explain that you and your child will get to play a game. These toys and objects have been captured by the spider web, and it is our job to help free them. They must follow your directions exactly, or the toy will stay stuck.
- 3- Have your child stand at any point outside of the web. Start giving simple direction such as "Go to the space with the teddy bear." Speak clearly and use acoustic highlighting to emphasize the key word to listen to, *teddy bear*. Using wait time, allow your child 7-10 seconds to process the direction before repeating. Once your child has made it to the teddy bear, praise the good listening and give your next direction. "Now hop back to mom and toss me the bear." Again, use acoustic highlighting to emphasize the key words to listen for, *hop and toss*.
- 4- As your child learns to listens for these keys words, you can make the directions harder. See below for examples.
- 5- Remember, it is fun for your child to listen for what he/she needs to DO in addition to listening for the toy items to be retrieved. For example, clapping, hopping, jumping, blinking, etc – these can be part of the instructions as well.
- 6- Invite family members to join in the fun! Take turns gathering items. You may also add a timer to increase the urgency and add a new element of motivation. If desired, have a prize to reward your child for saving the toys from the web.

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Masking tape/ String
- 5-10 toys that vary in color and size

### PREPARATION

- 1- Using masking tape or string, make a web shape in a large open space in your home or outside in the lawn area
- 2- Gather a variety of toys or objects in your home that are different shapes, colors, textures and sizes
- 3- Place toys and objects around the web in different spaces

### VOCABULARY:

- Big, small, large, etc.
- Soft, hard, squishy, rough, etc.
- Pointy, smooth, round etc.
- Blue, yellow, red etc.
- Jump, crawl, skip, tip toe, stretch, etc.

### HELPFUL TIPS

- You can make a direction harder by choosing objects that are similar but not the same. For example, choose two teddy bears to have in the web. Your child now must listen to identify which bear to get. You can also add in another action to do before picking the toy up. "First, tip toe to the bear with long fur. Then jump to the red race car."
- You can also take turns to allow your child to be the one giving the instructions for others to listen. Include other siblings, family, or friends to participate. Be creative – being mindful not to make it too easy or too hard.
- Remember, think simple, then build. Listening is a hard skill but can be practiced.

Special thanks to graduate students in the Listening and Spoken Language Deaf Education graduate training program at Utah State University. These pages can be reproduced for educational purposes.