

FALLING FROM THE SKY



Listening, sequencing, and using comparative endings in a fun and active way.

THINK ABOUT...

Most of what children learn happens incidentally. In other words, by hearing words in context and matching them to meaning, children learn about the world around them. However, children with hearing loss will miss out on incidental learning if they cannot hear the key language in their environments. An area of language that often needs more careful and planned exposure for children with hearing loss is understanding and using comparative word endings (such as 'er' or 'est'. Use this simple activity to introduce these concepts in a fun way your child is sure to love, while at the same time, practicing word discrimination, auditory sequencing, and auditory memory.



ACTIVITY

- 1- Explain that you are going to pretend to be raindrops, stars, or snowflakes and be blown around by the wind. But, you have to listen carefully. The wind only blows when the music is playing. When the music stops they need to FREEZE! (This can either be from the music player you prepared or from you as you clap and stomp your feet sounding like a storm.)
- 2- Start the music and encourage your child to pretend to blow around the area. Toss the cut-out snowflakes, stars, and raindrops into the air during the storm and see where they land.
- 3- Stop the music and say, "Freeze!"
- 4- Using acoustic highlighting, emphasize that your child is either close to or far away from one of the shapes. "Wow you are very *close* to the yellow raindrop and very *far* from the green star. Which one are you *closest* to?" Make sure to wait 8-10 seconds before you re-prompt or give another hint.
- 5- This activity can be very simple by using just a few shapes at a time and presenting a single instruction. Or, it can be made more difficult by having your child listen for instructions regarding several shapes. This can promote the comparative ending concepts, while also practicing listening skills and auditory memory tasks.
- 6- Be sure to take turns as appropriate so that your child has opportunities to let you know what to listen for.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Raindrop Pictures PDF
- Optional: Music player and music

PREPARATION

- 1- Print out Raindrop Pictures PDF onto sturdy cardstock
- 2- Cut out each individual raindrop
- 3- Set up music player if desired in a room with space to move or outside in a safe open area
- 4- Place raindrops around the room or yard 10-15 feet apart.

VOCABULARY:

- Close, closer, closest
- Far, farther, farthest
- High, higher, highest
- Low, lower, lowest
- Near, nearer, nearest

HELPFUL TIPS

- Involve the whole family or other friends and take turns and use everyone in the description. For example: "I am *close* to the blue raindrop, but you are *closer*, and Johnny is *closest*." You can also just focus on one concept (far or close) until your child has a strong grasp of the concept.
- Let the cutouts land on furniture so that you can describe "higher" and "lower" concepts

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.





