



Support Language Skills Through Travel

Are you going on vacation?

Try these simple, no prep, activities and discussion points.

They will help build vocabulary, conversational skills, executive functioning literacy, and more!

Support Language Skills Through Travel

Before You Go

- Discuss where you are going
- Ask your child what they think they might see or do there
- Have them plan an activity for the ride or while you are there
- Encourage them to pack their own bag according to what you have discussed
- Look at where you are going on a map and discuss the location and travel time

- *Try and make these natural conversations not **tests**. Use open ended questions, such as “I wonder ...”
- *Help them identify errors in packing and allow them the chance to try and correct them without you helping

While You're There

- Discuss the ‘plans’ for each day. Have your child predict what they will do or see during new activities
- Have your child help pack the car or a bag for an outing
- Help them ID signage and problem-solve where they are or where they need to go to find specific things
- Point out similarities and differences of this place or activity and others

On the Ride

- Prepare your child for what they are going to experience, such as the airport process or time in the car/stops/traffic
- Play car games, such as I Spy or First One to ...
- Listen to audio books
- Make a family music playlist
- Point out landmarks that may be different than what is typical for your child to see
- Explore new places and converse with new people during stops
- Have your child find certain letters, words, or specific signage (e.g. restaurant logos)

After the Trip

- Have your child unpack their bag and put items in their designated places
- Ask questions about their favorite things. **Wait** for their answer and try not to jump in
- Help them compare/contrast similarities and differences between this trip and others they have been on
- Have them draw or write about their trip and tell you about what they made
- Help them sequence the events in a scrapbook using vocabulary “first, next, then” or “before/after”
- Ask them to plan your next vacation and see what they come up with

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References:

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