



One Thing Every Parent and Teacher Should Know

by Dawn Cleal Carlsen

Do you ever feel kids just “don’t listen”? Do you often have to say the same thing several times before your child follows directions?

Young children have a fundamental problem with hearing perception. They have a hard time separating speech from background noise. The same way adults experience trying to hear someone talking over the noise of a passing jet or train.

It is harder for children to separate speech from background noise than it is for adults. Your child may look at you when you call her name from across a noisy room because her name is more easily recognizable than other words. Also, when we say someone’s

name to get their attention we tend to say their name louder than the message that follows. Across a noisy preschool if a parent says, “Grace”, Grace is likely to look up from her play. However, when her parent says, “It’s time to go”, this information just gets lost in a sea of noise around her. Grace will go back to playing giving the impression that “she isn’t listening” or “isn’t behaving”. Imagine Grace’s surprise when her parent gets closer and in an annoyed voice says, more loudly, “Grace, I said, “LET’S GO.” Grace can’t “hear” what you say in a noisy environment because your speech blends with all the noise around her. This is called **Auditory Figure Ground**. This is the process of separating the auditory figure or words, from ground, background noise.

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To help a child “hear” you in a noisy environment get close to the child, make eye contact, and speak very clearly and a bit slowly. Look for recognition that the child has heard you. If you ask your child, “Did you hear me?” or “What did I say?” be sure to use a kind, questioning tone rather than a reprimanding tone.
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CALENDAR

March

1-31 Beach House Raffle
8 Coop priority registration ends
9 Coop priority assignments announced
and
Open Enrollment for Seattle Public Schools Ends
11 Daylight-Savings Time begins
12 PAC Meeting
22 Coop cross-over Registration Period ends
23 Coop assignments announced
31 Coop Open Registration at NSCC

April

9 PAC Meeting
13 Art Escape: Fundraiser at the SAM Gallery Downtown
16-20 Spring Break (no school)

May

21 **PAC Meeting **NOTE: THIRD Monday of the month vs. traditional 2nd Monday of the month**
28 Memorial Day (no school)

June

20 Last day for SPS, co-op classes end earlier, check with your particular class schedule

NSCC Coop is now on Facebook!

Please visit our page at www.facebook.com/coops.northseattle, and "Like" our page to get updates on PAC events, fundraisers, and other useful information.

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Using a reprimanding tone is confusing and will delay the child's response as the child tries to determine what you really mean by the question.

There are things you can do to help increase your child's ability to distinguish speech from background noise. When you hear a siren ask your child, "Do you hear that? What is it?" When you hear a knock at the door ask your child, "Is someone knocking on the door?" When you hear a song playing in the background at home or in a store ask your child, "Do you hear music?" These kinds of questions help give a child practice listening to and identifying sounds.

To help encourage cooperation from a child who is engaged in an activity, especially when background noise is present;

- Be sure to get close to the child and make eye contact.
- Speak in a slightly louder than conversational volume when background noise is present.
- Make sure your tone is also conversational rather than annoyed (as sometimes happens when we feel children aren't listening to us).
- Give the child a warning a transition is going to take place, "We will need to leave in five minutes".
- Playing or singing a "clean up song", as often happens in preschool classrooms, may be helpful in cueing the children that it is clean up time but the music also makes it harder for the children to hear you.
- Speaking informatively when possible rather than directionally such as, "It is time to clean up. The blocks go in this tub" or "It is time to go. Do you want to leave the blocks out or put them away?" This encourages cooperation.
- Young children can only remember 2-3 step directions. Keep your directions brief, "It's clean up time. The blocks go in the tub. The tub goes on the shelf."
- Avoid using the word "and" in your directions. It is easier for children to remember two separate, simple directions than one long direction joined together with the word "and". "The blocks go in the tub. The tub goes on the shelf" is easier to remember than, "The blocks go in the tub and the tub goes on the shelf."

For young children, background noise can easily obscure speech and conversation. Remembering this and making simple adjustments will increase the likelihood that children will understand when you talk to them at preschool.

March 1-31st, 2012

Win a 2 night stay at the Sand Bucket Cottage in Pacific Beach, WA - for only \$5 per ticket!

Nestled in the quaint coastal town of Pacific Beach, 2 1/2 hours away from Seattle, this family-friendly, two bedroom cottage offers all the comforts of home. Buy a \$5 raffle ticket from your PAC Rep for your chance to win! Drawing will be held March 30th, right after Open Registration. All the proceeds will benefit PAC scholarships. Talk to your PAC Rep for more details. In addition, all Co-op families who book the cottage will receive 15% off regular rates!

<http://www.sandbucketcottage.com/>

Save the Date

When: Friday, April 13th
What: Art Escape: Fundraiser at the SAM Gallery Downtown
Why: To benefit PAC Scholarships
How: By featuring a night of appetizers, wine, and art; includes Artist talk TBA, and tickets to SAM's Gauguin Exhibit, program from 6:30 - 9 p.m

CO-OP Openings!

Toddlers Broadview
Pre 3's Broadview, Meadowbrook, Northgate Multi-Age (2-5's)
3-5's Broadview, Meadowbrook, Northgate Multi-Age (2-5's)
Multi-Age & 5's Meadowbrook 5's, Northgate Multi-Age (2-5's)

School Enrollment Update

Open enrollment for the 2012-13 school year ended on March 9th. Information on assignments is scheduled to be on the SPS website and automated phone line (206) 252-0212 on April 16. For information on school open houses, please visit the individual school websites at <http://bit.ly/SPSschooldirectory>

To apply for a school or program other than general education at your attendance area school, you will need to complete a school choice application for the appropriate grade.

There is also a new school opening: STEM at Boren!
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics for elementary students at Boren School.

School tours and open house information is available on school

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NSCC Cooperative Preschool Program
206-527-3783
(NSCC Parent Ed Office)
www.northseattlecoops.org

It's time to register for the 2012-13 year of Co-op!

Important dates are below. Be sure to check with your Parent Coordinator or the PC for the class you wish to join to be sure you get your application in before the end of the correct registration period. Make sure to schedule a tour of the class/es you hope to join as well - most schools will require a tour prior to accepting your registration. And tell all your friends who aren't yet part of a co-op about Open Registration!

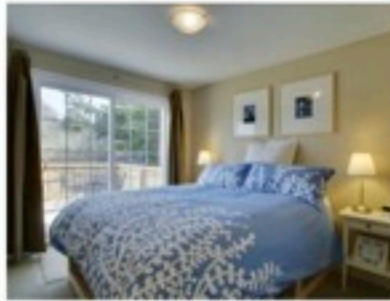
On or before **Thursday March 8**: Priority Registration applications due. Assignments will be given Friday March 9.

On or before **Thursday March 22**, Cross-over Registration applications due. Assignments will be give Friday March 23.

Saturday March 31, 10am-noon: Open Registration at NSCC.

More info at: <http://coops.northseattle.edu/coopbasics/Open%20Reg%20flyer%202012.pdf>

Sand Bucket Cottage



Win a two night stay - \$5 per raffle ticket

Nestled in the quaint coastal town of Pacific Beach, 2 ½ hours from Seattle, the two bedroom cottage offers all the comforts of home. The cottage sleeps eight, fully stocked with linens, place settings for nine, gas fireplace, fire-pit, Wi-Fi, cable TV, washer dryer, gas BBQ and two large decks.

Complete with toys and games, high chair and pack and play it makes a great getaway for families and pets.

www.vrbo.com/232782

(206) 947 7511

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) of the North Seattle Community College Cooperative Preschools presents a workshop for cooking moms and dads:

Make-Ahead Cooking Parties

Everyone has felt the 5 'o-clock dinner panic. *Is it frozen pizza or drive-thru?*

The **Make-Ahead Mamas** are a group of crazy-busy Seattle moms who've found a better way to put healthy, affordable, stress-free family dinners together on even the busiest of days--with Make-Ahead Cooking Parties (or "productive" parent's nights out) for moms and dads!

Be sure to make this fun lecture as they breakdown the process step-by-step, explain the "roles," share recipes, and help each parent establish connections in order to help foster their own cooking groups.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the church food-drive!

Thursday, May 3, 2012
7:00-8:30 PM
Faith Lutheran Church
8208 18th Ave. NE, Seattle



The **Make-Ahead Mamas** are 8 busy women with 18 kids among us. We get together every 8 weeks to prepare 8-10 healthy, freezable and delicious meals for an average of \$10 per main dish. We're working on helping other groups do the same! More info at www.facebook.com/makeaheadmamas

This event is free and open to the public.

<http://coops.northseattle.edu/>