

This week at the Center:

Groups focused on family and culture. This means vocabulary & communication tasks centered on family, your personal history & ancestry in addition to food, customs and cultures from around the world. **Since it's a holiday weekend for some, many of you will have an opportunity to practice your speech, ask questions and enjoy time with your family! Use it.**

What's right for you?

Finding a language task that is at the right difficulty level and is interesting is the key! Don't get bogged down in where the tasks you pick falls in the task order of complexity. You want practice that is engaging AND at a level that you get a language workout but not so frustrating that you give up! The Intersection is available to everyone at the Center so it covers a wide range of abilities. Pick what works for you today!!

A word about the name:

The Intersection is where home meets the Center. So many wonder what happens behind closed doors or how do I help at home or are lost as to where to even begin. Check out the Intersection for ways to keep using your language at home and keep moving on your road to recovery.

Member Portal:

This is available on our website in the **Member Portal**. Go to the home page.

Password: survivor

Auditory Comprehension (Listening):

- Watch and learn about different cultures or maybe more background on your own. Pick a video and watch alone or with someone else then talk about what you learned.
<http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Category.aspx?CategoryID=497>
- Have someone record or tell you a family story. It could be serious or funny. It doesn't have to be long. Listen to the story and have a discussion or retell the important details. Be sure to get the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN and WHY. You can use your smartphone.
- Pull out photos and practice listening to names or their relation to you. Have someone name the person or relation and you identify them in the photo.
- Practice listening to family-related yes / no questions. Again, this takes some work from a partner. Here is an example: Your sister is a girl? Your brother Bob is older than Doug? You were born in Maryland?

Verbal Expression (Talking):

- Many of the listening tasks above will also challenge your speech.
- Tell about when your little brother or sister was born. Be specific in what you remember and how you felt.
- Explain your role in the family. Are you the over-achiever, the dreamer, the black sheep? Have your conversation partner tell you about their role in their family growing up.
- Ask for or give out a family recipe.
- Practice the words "he" and "she". They often get mixed up and used incorrectly. You can do this by using pictures from a magazine and you have to label them verbally "he" or "she". If it's easy...good!
- Use family pictures. Practice saying or repeating their names or relationship to you. Use your words or gestures to describe what you know about them. Their likes, hobbies, work or physical attributes.

Supported Conversation:

We all need help! Many members at the Center benefit from their conversational partner giving them some help. This means always encourage use of gestures, or use of a communication book, have paper nearby for writing or drawing, and give choices. When you don't understand, say so!

Questions or suggestions:

This is a work in progress! Email me (Melissa) with questions or concerns. I am happy to help!

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- Complete family word pairs such as: mother and ____, brother and ____, aunt and ____, niece and ____, husband and ____, older and ____, grandmother and ____.
- Sing happy birthday, practice nursery rhymes you said as a child or say to your grandchildren, or sign songs that are culturally important to you such as your national anthem.

Multi-modal (speech, gestures, writing)

- Sort words such as: Mother, Father, Uncle into gender piles of male and female. This practices single word reading and thinking skills.
- Use family pictures and have a supported conversation. Pull out maps to locate where you went, use rating scales from 1-10 to rate how good the vacation was, use google images to find pictures that match the location or activities.
- Use pictures of food from around the world. Sort them into countries, like / dislike, have tried or have not tried.
- For adventuresome eaters, pick a new ethnic recipe or restaurant and try it out. Communicate how you feel about the experience of something new, if you liked the food, if you liked the people.

Functional everyday tasks:

- For some it's a holiday weekend! Make a traditional family dish. Be reasonable about what you decide to make. Recipes might need to be adapted so they are easier to read. Use communication books or pictures to help determine what should be made.
- Do a hobby or complete a craft! Great time to dye eggs. Then make egg salad ☺
- Go for a walk. Hide eggs, or search for specific colors in flowers or birds in trees. Look around and enjoy the beauty of outside!
- Pet your dog / cat and have a conversation. They are great listeners. It's a great way to practice verbs: sit, down, stay, stop. Doesn't really matter if they do it or not.
- If you see family, communicate with them. Initiate!!