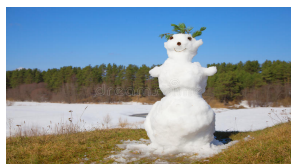
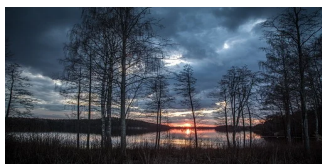


# MAY



Welcome to Crystal's  
Communication Corner!

May 2021

## Speech and Language Newsletter

### Meet Your SLP

My name is Crystal Kowalchuk and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist with the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre. I provide speech-language support for Chief Clifford Lynxleg Anishinabe School. A speech-language pathologist (or "SLP" for short!) provides support to school staff, including classroom teachers, and students to develop good communication skills in a variety of areas.

If you are receiving this Newsletter, then your child was on the speech and language caseload, or waitlist, last year. Although your child is not receiving their typical speech-language programming at school right now, the resources included in this newsletter can help develop your child's speech and language skills at home. If you would like more help, that's great! I am more than happy to chat with you on the phone about your child. We can discuss different options to support your child. Please give me a call or email if you want to learn more. My contact info is below!

### Nature Walk & Scavenger Hunts Included:

**Land-based lesson plan:** identified physical, mental/emotional, spiritual, and cognitive activities that your child can do before, during and after the nature walk. Parents and group leaders can help children to do the scavenger at their level.

**Outdoor Scavenger Hunts:** Opportunity for your child to go outside to get fresh air using your community's COVID safety precautions (e.g., masks, social distancing, etc.). Attached are scavenger hunt lists. They can make their own, or go out on the land/ in the community and make a list of what you did and didn't find as they hunt.

**Indoor Scavenger Hunts:** Many scavenger hunts can be done in the house. Your child can help with searching for their spring clothes, toys, and more. They can compare difference in winter jacket and boots compared to those they will wear when the weather is warmer. Not to mention what clothes fit and don't because they grew. Scavenger hunts by colour, size, dangerous/safe, toys/adult items, etc. can also be done while your child is playing, cleaning up, cooking/baking (hunt for ingredients).

**Other Activities:** I encourage you to involve your child of all ages to be the leader in planning, preparation, leading the nature walk/scavenger hunts and ways to present what they found. Allowing your child to take the lead gives them opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, vocabulary, thinking skills and language to express themselves using pictures on the core board, words in English and/or their home language.

**Sharing experiences and what was found:** there are general suggestions provided in the land-based lesson plan. I encourage your child to ask parents, siblings, relatives (if possible with COVID) to learn traditional ways or new ways to work with items they found (e.g., decorate baskets with leaves; use rocks as tools). Smaller rocks can be painted to become pictures or the tokens for board games, etc. Use smaller rocks like chalk to draw on the steps outside.

*It is hoped that your child will partner with them to do the activity together to learn and practice new language, listening, conversation, and social skills.*

### This newsletter is all about Learning in Context!

Context is the situation within which something exists or happens, and that [context] can help explain it. It also explains when something does not belong.

Scavenger hunts and nature walks on the land as a family, group and community help to develop many important communication skills. Children can build their skills in a fun way, without even realizing they are learning. Some skills that games develop are:

- Social skills & Teamwork
- Vocabulary & Categorizing
- Listening & Answering questions
- Speaking & Asking questions
- Listening to & Telling stories
- Reading & Writing

On the following pages you can find many different scavenger hunts to do during a land-based nature walk. There are some indoors as well. I encourage you to add rules or change rules, to help make them fun and work well for your family!

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