

A Day With No Words

The 2024 CLEL Bell Award Book for TALK

by Tiffany Hammond, illustrated by Kate Cosgrove

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***A Day With No Words* follows a mother and son through their day together as they communicate their thoughts and needs with one another and their community using speech tablets. The story uses the child’s point of view to show how he experiences the world as a person with Autism, utilizing tools and other forms of nonverbal communication to express himself. This picture book represents TALK in a way that honors neurodiversity and communication in its many forms.**

Activity Ideas for *A Day With No Words*:

- Go to a park to play like the characters in the story. Talk about the things you like to do at the park, like swing, slide, and climb. When you get home, draw picture cards that show each thing you used to play. Show how Mama and her son use picture cues to communicate, so next time you go to the park, you can use your picture cards to plan what you’ll do first, next, and last.
- Have a conversation about the part of the story when Mama feels angry. Why did she feel upset? What did she do when she had those big feelings? Try out a few coping skills that can be used to calm angry feelings like squishing playdough, ripping paper, blowing bubbles, trying animal yoga poses, or asking for a hug.
- When the boy is ready to leave the park, he taps “all done” and his tablet shows the written words as well as an illustration of the American Sign Language (ASL) sign for “all done.” Head to your local library and check out a board book or picture book that illustrates this way of communicating nonverbally. Challenge your family to learn three new ASL signs.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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