

## How to Make Cheap Speech Therapy Materials using Highlights Magazine

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[www.SpeechAndLanguageKids.com](http://www.SpeechAndLanguageKids.com)

Highlights magazine is one of my favorite sources of great speech and language activities! Not only does the magazine itself already have great literacy and language-based activities, but you can cut up the magazines to create even more materials. Plus, if you glue the cut-outs onto construction paper and laminate them, they'll last you a long, long time.

Here are some of the ways I recommend using pictures and stories from Highlights Magazine for creating speech and language therapy materials. If you don't already have a subscription, you can save money by going through my affiliate link:

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### **Articulation/Phonology Therapy Ideas:**

- **Conversational Speech Practice:** When teaching a child how to say a sound correctly, you will eventually need to work on saying that sound correctly in conversational speech. Find pictures in the highlights magazines that have a lot going on. Cut these pictures out and glue them onto sturdy paper and then laminate. Have the child talk about what's going on in the picture using his good speech sounds.
- **Reading Tasks:** Sometimes, we need the child to practice his new sound in reading instead of in conversational speech. I like to cut out different short stories from the magazine and laminate them for easy readings. These are usually at a fairly easy reading level so they work for most kids.
- **Make Articulation Cards:** Find words and/or pictures that contain the child's target sounds. Cut them out and glue them onto notecards. If you have one word per notecard, you can use them as flashcards.
- **Auditory Bombardment/Increase Sound Awareness:** Find a "seek and find" type picture that has a lot of different vocabulary words in it. Point out to the child every object that you find that contains the target sound. Or, have the child seek for words that contain the target sound. Say the sound over and over again as you search. (example: "We're looking for /p/ words, does "dog" have the /p/ sound? "dog". No, no /p/ sound. /p/, /p/, /p/. Does "popsicle" have the /p/ sound? "popsicle". Yes! Popsicle starts with /p/.")
- **Look for rhyming activities in the magazine.** These are great for talking about beginning and ending sounds as well as final consonants.

### **Answering Questions:**

- **Cut out a picture of a scene or activity.** Paste the picture onto sturdy paper. Then, write questions on the back of the card that relate to the picture on the front. Make sure to write questions for all of the different question forms (who, what, where, when, why, how,

which, yes/no). Then, in therapy, pull out a card and start asking the questions on the back that relate to the skills that child is working on.

- Reading Comprehension/Questions: Cut out one of the short stories found in the magazine. Glue it onto construction paper and write comprehension questions about the story on the back. Make sure to write questions using all different question forms. Then, laminate the story. In therapy, have the child read the story out loud or read it for him. Then, ask him the questions on the back.

### **Social Skills:**

- Cut out a picture of people in a social setting. This can be any type of event. Ask the child to describe what is going on in the scene and what type of interactions are appropriate for that activity. Talk about if everyone in the picture seems to be following social expectations or if anyone is violating the expectations of that scenario. For example, if students are in the lunch room but one person is in the background juggling, you could talk about how that is not expected behavior for the lunch room. Talk about what is expected in that social situation and point out anyone in the picture who is following the “rules”.
- Goofus and Gallant: This segment often appears in Highlights and has pictures and descriptions of when children make good choices and when they make bad choices. I like to cut these pictures out and talk about what was right or wrong about the choices made.

### **Sequencing/Recall:**

- Highlights often features comic-book panel style stories where there will be an event depicted in several boxes. Each box has one step of the story. You can cut these out and laminate them and then have the child put them back together in the correct order. Then, have the child retell what happened in the story either while looking at the pictures or after you put them away.

### **Vocabulary:**

- Highlights often has sections that include interesting facts about a subject. Use these passages for learning and looking up new vocabulary words. Have the child read the passage and stop whenever he gets to a word he doesn't know. Help the child use a dictionary or search engine to find the meaning of unknown words. You can also practice creating word webs about the subject of the article by writing the topic in the middle and have categories of topic-specific vocabulary around it. [Check out my article on creating word webs.](#)

### **Following Directions:**

- Check out some of the craft ideas for simple following directions activities. Each craft has step-by-step directions that the child can follow after listening to or reading the directions.