



# Talkies Program

## for Oral Language Comprehension & Expression

The Talkies® program, by Nanci Bell and Christy Bonetti, is the primer to the Visualizing and Verbalizing® Program. It is designed for students who need simpler, smaller steps of instruction to establish the imagery-language connection. It is appropriate for students at any age with two specific areas of weakness: poor oral vocabulary and delayed receptive/expressive language. Talkies may also be used as developmental instruction for any preschool-aged child.

**Students/setting:** Students with weakness in receptive and expressive oral language skills and weak oral vocabulary. Preschool students developing age-appropriate vocabulary and expression. Special education, autism spectrum disorders.

**Staff:** Speech and language pathologists, resource/special education staff, center-based program staff, interventionists, paraprofessionals, school psychologists, preschool teachers

**Grade Levels:** K-12 (Special Education), Preschool (education resource)

**Group size:** 1-2 (Tier 3 intervention)

**Lessons:** 45 - 60 minutes daily, 80-120 lessons\*. (Tier 3 intervention)

\*Lesson times are minimums. Some students may require more intensive intervention; daily times and total lessons should be adjusted accordingly (e.g., 90 minutes daily, if needed).

### Instructional Focus:

- Sensory-cognitive foundation of concept imagery and vocabulary development
  - Vocabulary for basic shapes, colors, objects, Boehm concepts, and basic movements
  - Sensory integration with concrete and imaged representations of language
- Sensory-language play and oral language comprehension
  - Reciprocity and play to establish rapport between teacher and student
  - Verbal and non-verbal responses, determined by student needs
  - Judging true or false
  - Receptive and expressive language practice
  - Object permanence and imagery practice
- Single-word to multi-sentence expression
  - Structured approach from simple two-word sentences up to complex seven-word sentences
  - Exploring adjectives, adverbs, connector words, and articles
  - Incorporating descriptive words to extend sentence detail and complexity (structure words)
- Expressive language, visualization, and gestalt imagery
  - Activities to extend expressive language - describing a picture or an object
  - Activities to develop visualization of a single word, extending to visualizing a phrase or sentence.
- Structured – explicit, systematic, cumulative
  - Simple to complex, following scope and sequence
  - Teacher-led, Socratic questioning
- Diagnostic and prescriptive

### Professional Development

Four levels of professional learning: advance teacher competencies and school capacity

- Level 1 – live, online workshops or a face-to-face group in-service (20 hours)
- Level 2 – online review courses and advanced training modules (annual membership)
- Level 3 – job-embedded professional development (1-2 semesters)
- Level 4 – comprehensive school partnership model (minimum one school year)

### Required Materials

- Talkies Instructor Kit, available through [Gander Publishing](#). One per teacher.

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