

CORE WORD VOCABULARY & LITERACY PROGRAM

Dear Parents,

This year Manhattan STAR will be embedding a CORE WORD VOCABULARY & LITERACY PROGRAM into the overall academic curriculum of all students. The goal of the CORE WORD VOCABULARY & LITERACY PROGRAM is to enhance and improve social communication, emergent literacy development, and emergent writing skills of all the students of MSA. Each month there will be CORE VOCABULARY words integrated into the curriculum and academic activities of all the classrooms. **CORE VOCABULARY words comprise 80% of the words that everyone uses in their expressive vocabulary on a daily basis. By targeting CORE WORDS and embedding this vocabulary into the academic curriculum the students will be provided with functional words that can be used in verbal speech, on their alternative and augmentative communication boards/devices, in social exchanges, in books, and in their writing to enhance their learning and ability to interact with teachers, peers, therapists, and with you at home.** As Karen Gorman (District 75 website) so eloquently states:

"By TEACHING CORE VOCABULARY, we are building the foundation for more complex communication and language skill development. We are able to provide a way for everyone to get in the game of communicating in all situations, not just prepared routines. By using Core Words to engage succinctly and frequently, we teach the students to "talk" or converse in a "give-and-take." This type of conversation is engaging, motivating, and respectful."

Each month you will be receiving a letter to introduce the new CORE words for the month along with suggestions on how to embed these words into your daily activities at home. Since it is a new school year, please find enclosed the first two CORE words for September. Please feel free to post these words in a prominent place in your home.

September's CORE vocabulary words are: **Hi, I, and Me.** We chose these words because it is the beginning of the school year and we will be learning about our new students, your child will be making new friends and meeting new people, and we will come together to kick start a great school year.

A member of the YAI network.
Seeing beyond disability.

If you have questions about how your child's classroom is using CORE Vocabulary please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher. If you have questions on how CORE Vocabulary is being integrated into speech therapy sessions please feel free to reach out to your child's speech and language pathologist.

Warmly,

The MSA Team