



Notes from a Parent

by Jill Adams

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Is there anything more typical or age appropriate than a four-year-old that is obsessed with Star Wars? During the summer it seemed as though every conversation with Weston was about Star Wars. The plot, the characters, the weapons, etc., etc.

In an attempt to get something useful out of this energy, we came up with "Weston's Words." I started by covering my oldest cookie pan with leftover contact paper from a previous project. Using the computer, Weston and I printed the names of Star Wars characters. We started with just a couple (JarJar & Qui-Con), and Weston's own name. We cut the names apart and attached a small piece of magnetic self adhesive tape to the back.

The magnets kept the words on the cookie sheet and were easy to move around on the sheet. As we talked about Star Wars, Weston would find the name on the sheet.

As he became familiar with the names, we gradually added more and more. Now he can distinguish between the names Darth Maul, Darth Vader, and Darth Sideous. Once we had all the Star Wars names, we started adding words like "was," "and," and "has strong muscles" (Weston's request). He now wants to add the names of his friends at school and words like "bus" and "lunch."

Using magnetic tape to stick them to the cookie sheet lets him take his words from room to room and keeps the words from getting lost. Who knows, maybe by the time he is in Kindergarten we will be ready for magnetic poetry!!!