

Ideas to help young children's speech

There are lots of different ways for parents, carers and familiar adults to support a child's early speech sound skills during every day and play activities. These ideas can be used throughout a child's day at home or in nursery. They should be used in activities your child finds enjoyable.

Say words back to your child they have said wrong, for example, if they say 'tat' for cat, you could say, 'yes, it's a cat, a big cat.' Do not ask your child to repeat the word, as it may put them under pressure and upset them.

Listen for everyday sounds, such as: a fire engine, phone ringing, helicopter, someone sneezing, a baby crying. Talk about the sounds and make them yourself.

My sound box/bag - collect objects or pictures of things for a week that begin with the same sound. You could choose a sound your child is not yet using themselves, such as: 's' for sock, soap, stick.

Syllables (parts of a word) - clap out words as you say them, such as:

Teddy → te ddy (two claps)

Butterfly → bu ter fly (three claps).

This will help your child with longer words.

Place them in a box or bag. Each day add a new object and talk about them. By saying the words a number of times your child will start to notice the sounds you are using. Change the sound each week and use new objects or pictures or the chosen sound

Rhyming games - play silly games with rhyming words (slug in the Jug game – Orchard toys).

Reading to your child

This helps in lots of ways. Try books with words which are repeated and with rhymes, such as: The Gruffalo, Peepo, Hairy Maclary. Once your child knows the story you can leave a word out for them to fill in.

My scrapbook - make a scrapbook and use one page for each sound. Stick in or draw pictures of things that begin or end with that sound, for example, for the 't' sound: tap, top, tick, hat, light, boat.

You saying the words will help your child hear sounds at the beginning **and** at the end of a word.

Lip movements - make funny faces in the mirror and change lip shapes, such as: making a big wide yawn, blowing a kiss, saying "ooo", smiling, blowing raspberries, party blowers, whistles.

Tongue movements - make funny faces in the mirror, stick out your tongue, lick yoghurt from a teaspoon using the tip of your tongue or lick an ice-cream or lollypop.

Please call the Speech and Language Therapy department on ☎ **01925 946686** if you have any questions.