

Learning Speech Sounds Through Listening

A child with a speech (pronunciation) problem needs more practice and opportunities for listening. Provided below, is a list of general activities to do at home with your child to encourage development of listening and pronunciation skills. Activities may be incorporated into everyday activities and should always be done in a fun way. Do not place pressure on your child to perform and continue the activity for only as long as your child is willing to participate. Help your child learn that listening and talking are fun!



- **Be aware of all your child's communication attempts.**
- **Provide a calm and quiet environment for learning.**
- **If your child is difficult to understand, have him/her show you what they are talking about; repeat back parts of the message you did not understand; ask questions that require short answers.**
- **Try to be at your child's physical level, attain eye contact so your child can see your face and mouth.**
- **When your child mispronounces a word, simply repeat the word with emphasis on correct pronunciation of the sound so he/she hears it correctly, without any expectation that the child should repeat it.**
- **Draw your child's attention to many different types of sounds** (e.g. a car coming, wind, a bird singing, a kettle boiling).
- **Use a mirror and investigate and play with movements you can do with your mouth** (e.g. tongue in and out, tongue left and right, tongue tip to nose, round mouth like a fish, stretch mouth to a smile).
- **Sing, read poems, say Mother Goose rhymes, etc. to help your child develop sound awareness.**
- **Have a "sound of the week/month" at your home.** Use sounds that your child can make. Print the letter of the sound on a piece of paper and place on the fridge and play the following games with the sound:
 - Hunt in each room to find things that begin with the sound (e.g. /p/- pan, pot, pie)
 - Create sound books about the sounds. Cut out pictures from the "junk mail" you get (e.g. food, toy and hardware flyers)
 - Look for things that begin with the sound as you walk to the park
 - Point out the sound while you read stories
 - Emphasize listening for the sound

