









Note: This advice sheet is for your own reference. You may find it useful to print this prior to the training, but it is not essential.

Speech Sounds

Children develop speech sounds at different ages and stages. Here are some ways you can increase children's awareness of sounds and encourage them to say different sounds. Awareness of sounds comes first so it's just as important to work on this as well as producing the sounds.

	<p>Listening Walks</p> <p>Go for a walk and tune your child into the sounds they can hear in their environment. Point out objects that begin with target sounds.</p>
	<p>Matching musical instruments</p> <p>Put 3 instruments in the middle of the circle. Familiarise your child with the sounds. Ask your child to close their eyes & listen. The adult plays one instrument and the child has to choose the instrument. This game can be made harder by playing two instruments and the child must then copy the instruments in the same sequence.</p>
	<p>Collecting sound pictures</p> <p>Get your child to find and collect pictures of objects starting with the target sound and make a scrapbook of them. This will be a good talking point and bring the child's attention to the sound.</p>
	<p>Rhyming books, singing songs, rhymes</p> <p>Singing songs that are focused on different sounds – good examples of these can be found on YouTube (make sure the accent is English though).</p>
	<p>Sound play bag</p> <p>Put a selection of objects beginning with a certain sound or a couple of different sounds in a bag. Look through these with your child, producing the initial sound to the child before each object is revealed. The child can play with the object for a bit before moving onto the next item. When all of the objects have been revealed see if your child can identify the objects beginning with the sound you say as they put them back into the bag.</p>
 <p>sss</p> <p>beep</p>	<p>Listening to puppets</p> <p>Use 2 puppets or toys. Get the first puppet to make a noise or a speech sound e.g. horse says 'sssss' and then get the second puppet to make a different noise or speech sound e.g. girl says 'beep beep'. See if your child can point to the correct puppet when you ask them 'which one said ssss?' or 'which one said beep beep'. If they are not sure get the puppets to say their sounds again and hold the correct puppet closest to your child</p>

Avoid 'telling' your child to say a sound, if they produce a sound then give them lots of praise but avoid saying 'say sssss'. Remember, when you are saying the sounds to your child make sure you use the pure sound and not the letter to describe it! For example: use 's' and not 'suh' or 'ess' for the 's' sound.