



SLT Top Tips for supporting Speech sounds

Some children have difficulties with their speech intelligibility; this means that they can find it hard to articulate or pronounce some speech sounds accurately which can impact on their ability to make themselves understood. It is typical for young children to demonstrate some speech error processes but if these errors continue beyond a certain age and are impacting on their speech intelligibility/making themselves understood they may benefit from speech therapy intervention.

Here are some **ideas for strategies** you can try if your child is having difficulty with their speech sounds:

- Try to get down to your child's level **face to face** with them when you are talking. This will help your child to see how you are moving your mouth to make speech sounds.
- Try to **model** clear speech sounds and a slow rate of speech when you are talking to your child.
- If your child mispronounces a word in conversation you could try repeating it back in the correct way for them to listen to without asking them to say it after you (e.g. if they say 'I made a nake' you could say 'you made a Snake' emphasising the /s/ sound).

- If you are struggling to understand what your child is saying encourage them to tell you in another way or to **use visuals** to support their speech (e.g. show you using gestures, objects).
- Try to **acknowledge** what your child has said even if you haven't fully understood it using the context to make a comment about what is happening (e.g. 'yes we're making playdoh snakes'.)
- Play **games** that involve listening to and practising different speech sounds in a fun non-pressured way (e.g. pretend play with toy animals e.g. the snake goes 'sss', popping bubbles and saying 'pop', flying a toy plane that goes 'vvv'.)
- Practice making speech sounds when looking in the mirror (e.g. when brushing your teeth) so that your child can get **visual feedback** about how they need to position the different parts of their mouth.
- Speak to your SLT for further advice and activities to help your child's speech sound development.