

AACS Speech –Language Pathologists Series



*Supporting the
Special Needs
Community from
birth through life*



*Doing Great Things Since
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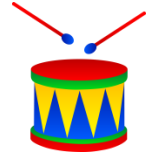
Building Your Child’s Speech Skills

Help your child by showing them how you’re making the sounds. Spend time on the floor with them, drawing attention to your face and lips by being close to their level, pointing at your lips, exaggerating or prolonging your speech motions, repeating the same sounds over and over to help them get all your cues. Some sounds are very visible, so can be easier for children to imitate. Try words with B, P, M, especially words that start with those sounds. Blowing bubbles is a great activity to talk about Pop, Bubble, More, Up, Blow.

Try to avoid using your child’s baby words. Even though they can be cute to hear, your child will benefit from you using the adult version.

Some sounds and words are truly difficult for little mouths to handle. Often if a word has two consonants next to each other (i.e. truck, blanket, drink), it’s tougher to say accurately. Often young children will simplify these sounds by dropping one of the consonants, or replacing the sound with an all together different one. This is typical and to be expected.

When your young child babbles, babble back, and do so in their direct gaze. As your baby hears the same sounds over and over, and sees your face and enjoys your reaction, they’ll learn to reproduce the same sounds and experiment with new ones. Start by copying their sounds and then add some new ones to see if they will imitate after you. Some children babble more in certain situations or environments such as bath time, alone in their crib, or after a full meal. Babbling teaches speech sounds, so encourage their babble experiments by prolonging these times, socializing back and forth with them when they have a lot to say.



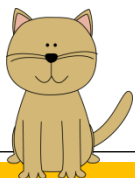
Mirror play sitting side by side with your child. Encourage older siblings to participate in the sound play. You can pass a ball and make a sound or pass the ball to someone who makes the sound. Musical toys (use a drum and “sing” by playing with target sounds, “sing” or hum target sound to the tune of a song).

Make a book or album containing objects beginning with the sound, giving the child feedback (“almost” or “good job”), using a microphone or recording toy.

Play microphones are great for sound play and to get kids to imitate sounds, some are on toys or the “Echo microphone” is fun and can be found at Target in the toy section for \$1.99 or at the dollar store. Some kids like paper towel rolls to talk into and it helps if Mom, Dad, or siblings has one too to take turns talking.

Use music from their favorite shows or sing the basic songs like Wheels on the Bus or Old MacDonald and pause for them to fill in the words.

Farm toys and farm animals books anima are great because animals make lots of the early sounds “moo”, “baa”, “neigh”, “meow”, etc.



Puppets that pretend to eat play food....”mmmmm”. “yumm;”, “yuck”, “more”, food names.

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