



Make the games fun  
and your child will  
want to play more!

Speech and Language Therapy Service

Helping Your Child To Copy Sounds  
and Make Symbolic Noises

More Ideas for You to Try:

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Symbolic noises such as animal sounds, choo-choo, tick-tock, etc. often come before children's true first words. Copying sounds of any kind is an important stage in learning to talk. Your child will become more confident in making a range of sounds and will enjoy it when you say them back. These early sounds will lay the foundations for your child's first words.

For more information, contact Speech and Language Therapy:  
Tel 01535 295652

<http://www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy/>

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Use sounds for different feelings or situations:

"mmm" - lovely ice cream

"ahh" - what a lovely baby

"ooo" - what's hiding?

"oops" - something fell

Use sounds to go with actions:

"bang bang" - bang saucepan lids or hammering

"knock knock" - knock on door or table

"tick tock" - clock sound

"ring ring" - telephone or doorbell

"bye bye" - waving

Listen to your child and copy the sounds that they make, such as blowing raspberries.

Babble with your child:

"ma ma ma" "da da da" "bee bee bee" "ga ga ga".

Try some new sounds that your child doesn't say, e.g.

"la la la" "wa wa wa" "po po po".

Don't worry if your child doesn't say them like you do.



Try making noises when playing with vehicles:

brumm brumm, choo choo, nee-naw etc.



Make your voice interesting by making it loud, quiet or excited when you say the sounds.

Make animal sounds when playing with toys or looking at pictures:

Dog - "woof woof"

Bee - "buzz buzz"

Horse - "neigh"

Cow - "moooo"

Put some toy animals around the room. When you make one of their sounds, your child finds the animal.

Sing animal or action songs such as "Old MacDonald's Farm" or "The Wheels on the Bus".

