

Speech and Language Therapy Service

Helping Your Child Use Their New Sounds in Everyday Speech



The *way* in which you encourage your child to use the new sounds is also very important. Up to now, they have probably been quite dependent on you and the therapist to remind them when to use their new sounds. However the aim now is for your child to develop their own skill at recognising when they have not used the new sounds and to be able to correct themselves.

Stage One

When your child says the old sound, ask "Is it *tea* or *key*?" or "is it *sun* or *tun*?", emphasising the sounds.

Stage Two

When your child says the old instead of the new sound, for example, 'there's the tun', prompt them by saying 'there's the ...?' and see if your child can spot the error and correct it.

Stage Three

As your child becomes better at self-correcting, just a 'certain look' may be enough to make them think again and try to spot and correct their error.

Stage Four

You will be able to phase out all extra help as your child gradually uses the new sound all the time in everyday speech.

Remember that it takes time and practice to break an old habit. Have patience and be tolerant of the errors which will be made and your child will soon be using their new speech sounds all the time



Your child is now at the stage where they can produce their new sound(s) in clinic, when they are being constantly reminded.

The next stage is for them to be able to use the new sound(s) in everyday speech. The process of generalisation is a gradual one and needs to be handled sensitively and positively.

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

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

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Some things for you to think about...

It is a big task for your child to replace their old sounds with the new ones *all of the time*.

Patience, tolerance and lots of repetition are needed.



There will be times when it is not appropriate to encourage the new speech sounds, for example, when your child is very excited, ill or tired.

During these times you may find the old sounds are used again - don't worry! It is not a good idea to try to practise now.

Once regular therapy has finished, it is easy to forget about the new sounds.

Make a plan of action:

☺ Choose a time in the day when the new sounds are to be used.

☺ Choose certain words which will be said with the new sounds *all the time*. Start with one word and slowly build up.



☺ Have a star chart. If your child uses the new sounds they get a star but if you catch them out - you get a star.



We are looking for the new sounds to be used in everyday speech over the next 3 or 4 months - don't expect it to happen overnight!



If your child gets increasingly angry, frustrated or upset, take time to sit quietly and discuss the plan again.



Make a 'contract' with your child and discuss the plan. Get other family members to help. If you can agree the details it avoids frustration for everyone.