

## Rhythms

Tap or clap the rhythm of a rhyme. Choose rhymes with a strong beat for this, e.g. "pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man"

Encourage your child to copy simple clapping patterns, e.g. one clap, two clap, three claps.

Say everyday words and clap them out for your child, e.g.

Duck = one clap

Teddy (te-ddy) = two claps

Telephone (te-le-phone) = three claps

Encourage your child to copy you.



## Sound Awareness

Encourage your child to listen to letter sounds. Don't make them say the sound, just listen to it. You might find your child tries to copy the sound by themselves. That's alright. Praise them for doing so, e.g. "Oh, you've made a ssss! That's clever!"

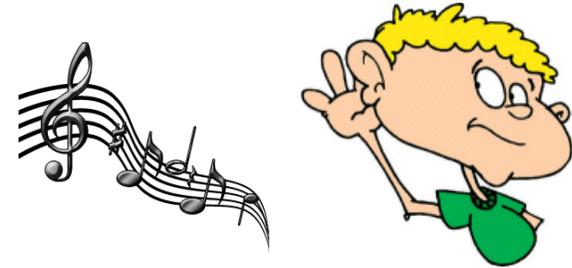
Look at picture alphabet books with your child. Talk about the sounds, e.g. "Look, here are some ssss words." Point out the words beginning with that sound, e.g. sun, sock, sand. Remember to say the sound 'ssss' rather than the letter name 'es'.

Draw or stick a picture in a book of words beginning with different sounds. Use one page for each sound.



## Speech and Language Therapy Service

### Helping Your Child With Listening and Early sound Awareness



Children can't learn language unless they listen to what people say. They also need to learn what is important out of all the noise going on around them. For example, they need to know to ignore a loud cough but not a loud 'No!' Learning to listen well also helps children to develop speech sounds, and later on to develop reading and writing skills.

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

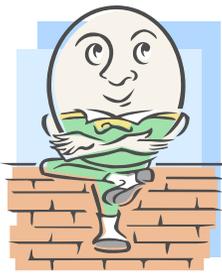
<http://www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy/>

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Homes are often quite noisy places. Televisions, radios, washing machines and vacuum cleaners all make for a noisy home. Children get used to these noises and often don't learn to listen well.



To help children listen they need some quiet times. This means switching off televisions etc. and playing with or talking to your child.



### Nursery Rhymes

Sing or read traditional nursery rhymes to your child as often as you can. Good ones to start with are:

Humpty Dumpty  
Jack and Jill  
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star  
Baa Baa Black Sheep  
Hickory Dickory Dock

Make this fun and add actions where you can. When your child has heard these rhymes lots of times, try leaving out the last word of the line, e.g. "Humpty Dumpty sat on a....." Fill the word in yourself if your child is not yet ready to do this.

## LISTENING GAMES

Stand still and listen to noises outside. Name the sounds, e.g. bus, plane, bird.

Listen to a quiet sound such as a watch ticking, a cat purring, etc. Talk about the sounds.

Collect a box of toy animals or objects that make a noise, e.g. cars, phone, cow. Teach your child the noise, e.g. brumm, ring, moo. When your child has learnt the noises, make the noise of one of them and see if he or she can find the right toy.

Play picture lotto:  
Give your child a lotto board. Make sure your child knows the names of the pictures on the board. Choose a picture but hide it from your child. Tell him or her what you have got. See if your child can listen and find the picture on the board.

Play Simple Simon, e.g. "Simple Simon says.....stand up!" This teaches your child to wait and listen.

Choose a book with 'busy' pictures. Ask your child to find things in the picture, e.g. "where's the boat?" If your child can't find things, he/she might not understand the words. If this is so, teach him/her the words by pointing to the pictures and saying the words, e.g. "There's a boat." You might have to do this lots of times before he/she can remember them.

