

## Using new sounds



*When children are learning to make new sounds, they usually work through several steps. They will start by saying the sound on its own, then in syllables and words, then in short sentences and finally in conversation. Being able to use the sound naturally in conversation can be a difficult step. Below are some ideas to help get your child there*

Choose one of the below activities and chat with your child for 5-10 minutes. Tell them you will be listening out for the sound they have been practising. Correct your child's sounds whenever they make a mistake.

- Look through a favourite book and ask your child to tell the story to you (they don't need to be able to read, but can make up the story themselves).
- Choose some funny pictures or cards, and get your child to describe them to you.
- Ask your child to tell you what they did at day-care/ kinder/school.
- Sing a nursery rhyme or favourite song.
- Ask your child to tell you about their favourite movie or TV show.
- Do some cooking or craft with your child. Ask them to tell you all the steps that it took to make the finished product.
- Practise counting specific sequences according to the sounds you're working on. For example, count from 40-60 if you are practising /f/, or from 60-80 if you are practicing /s/.

- Practise naming activities like telling the names of everyone in your family or their grade, listing all the animals your child knows, or all the different foods they like.
- Play games such as 'snap', 'memory' or 'go fish' using picture cards that have the sound your child has been practising. Ask your child to say each word in a sentence. For example: "It's a ship" or "I have a car".
- Play a game of 'I spy', making sure that you spy something starting with your child's special sound.
- Use your speech sound pictures and ask your child to make silly sentences using two or more of the pictures.

### Some kids need some extra motivation

Give them a 'point' every time you hear them say the sound correctly. Aim to beat the total each time you practise, or work towards earning something when they reach a certain number of points, such as stickers or a trip to the park.

Aim for a short burst of practice every day. Try to make it fun to avoid any frustration or unwillingness to practise.



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