

Speech Sounds



Ealing Community
Partners

How

Children learn sounds by listening to people speaking around them. They have been listening to the sounds around them since before they were born.

When

Children do not say all of the sounds straight away, some are later to develop than others:

Approximate age	Sounds
2-3 years	'p, m'
3-4 years	'b, d, n, f, h, g, m, ng, f, k, w, z, y, nt'
4-5 years	't, kw, v, s, sh, ch, j'
5-6 years	'bl, pl, sp, st, sw, l'
6-7 years	'dr, gr, gl, kr, tr, r'
7-8 years +	'br, fr, pr, sl, th'

Based on Goldman Fristoe (2015) norms

How to help

- **Model** how to say the sound accurately without correcting your child. If your child says "tar" you can say "yes, a car".
- **Praise** your child for saying the sound correctly – "that was a good 't' sound".
- **Don't pretend** to have understood what your child has said. You could try repeating back what your child has said and say "My ears did not hear what you said, can you **show me** instead".
- Support your child to **break down** longer words into syllables. Ask them to 'clap out the word', for example bu-tter-fly or ca - ter - pi-llar.
- **Highlight** words that rhyme or start with the same letter e.g. singing 'hickory, dickory, dock...dock and clock, they rhyme!'
- **Point out sounds** when you are reading or talking "can you find anything beginning with a 'duh' sound".
- Practice **little and often** – if your Speech and Language Therapist has given you homework, practice on a daily basis and try to make sessions fun!

Note - when working on speech sounds we need to think and talk about sounds with our children and not letters. For example, elephant starts with an 'eh' sound rather than the letter 'ee.'

Speak to a Speech and Language Therapist for more information and advice.

Contact us

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www.ealinglocaloffer.org.uk

Watch the video

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Helping Children to Speak
Clearly (Pronunciation)



Ealing Children's
Services: **Early**
listening games to help
your child's speech
sound awareness

