NHS
Ealing Community Partners

Speech and Language Message of the Week

SPEECH DEVELOPMENT

Age by which 75% of children used the sound	Speech sounds
3 years	h, y, w, ng (sing), m, n, p, k, t, b, g, d, dj (measure)
3 years 6 months	f
4 years	L, sh, ch
4 years 6 months	j (jam), s, z
5 years	r
6 years	v
8 years	th (this)
8 years 6 months	th (thing)

TOP TIPS FOR DEVELOPING SPEECH SOUNDS

Check for **hearing** difficulties.

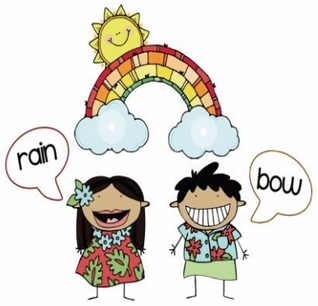
Practise **clapping syllables** e.g. in children's names.

Encourage children to talk slowly and **talk slowly yourself**!

Model the correct way e.g.
Child: "tar" when pointing to a car
Adult: "that's right, it's a c**a**r! A fast c**a**r"

Point out sounds when talking or reading e.g. if you're looking at a picture book point out pictures that start with sounds that the child has trouble saying.

Practise **rhyming** words / sing songs and leave a gap for children to fill in the rhyme.



Make sure you are **facing the child** when talking to them.

What to do if you can't understand a child:

- Don't pretend you have understood if you have not!

- Repeat back what you have understood so the child can tell you yes/no and fill in the gaps.

- Ask them to say it in a different way or show you what they mean with gesture or an object.

If you are concerned about your child's speech sound development, please **talk to a Speech and Language Therapist** – you can email us at ealing.sltadvice@nhs.net or call us Monday to Friday between 1-4pm on 07512 716 478

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