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.

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

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.

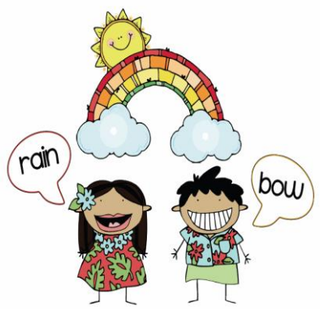
Practise **rhyming** words / sing songs and leave a gap for children to fill in the rhyme.

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

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

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

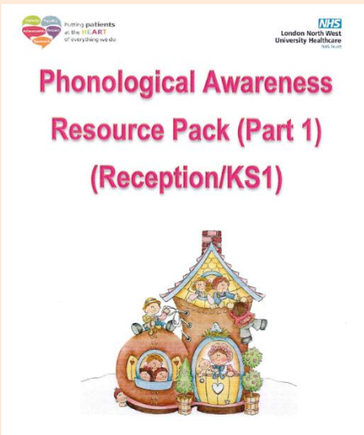
- Don't pretend you have understood if you have not!
- Repeat back what you have understood so the child can tell you yes/no and fill in the gaps.
- Ask them to say it in a different way or show you what they mean with gesture or an object.



What is phonological awareness?

- The knowledge that what we say is made up of ***words***, ***syllables*** and ***sounds***.
- Being able to identify and manipulate these.
- Phonological awareness skills are crucial for developing speech, phonics and literacy.
- examples:
  - is it long/short?
  - what is the first/last sound?
  - how many syllables?
  - rhyme

Speak to your Speech and Language Therapist about phonological awareness activities and how to set up a targeted group.



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