

We make many different sounds when we speak. Some children have problems learning the sounds they need, in order to speak clearly. Listening activities and games are a fun way to practice speech sounds. Children learn best when they are having fun.

Here are some listening activities and games you can try with your child:

- ☺ Emphasize the sound at the beginning of a word. For example, if you want to focus your child's attention on the "s" sound, say "s-s-s-snake," "s-s-s-snack," "s-s-s-story," or other words that start with "s."
- ☺ Pair a sound with an animal, action or object. For example, "s-s-s" is the snake sound, "k-k-k" is the coughing sound and "la" is the singing sound. This activity is especially helpful for a child who has not learned how to read.
- ☺ Collect or draw pictures of things that start with a particular sound. For example, if you want your child to listen to the "f" sound, start a scrapbook of things that start with "f."
- ☺ Choose books that have many words that start with the sound your child is learning. The book, "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," by Dr. Seuss is a great book to have fun with while your child hears the "f" or "sh" sound.
- ☺ Children love music and enjoy singing songs over and over! A song that is filled with a particular speech sound is a great way to let your child hear and practice that sound. For example, "Mary Had A Little Lamb" is a good song for practicing the "l" sound.
- ☺ Play with sounds by singing a tune like, "Row, row, row your boat," but use a syllable like "bo" instead of the words: "bo bo bo bo bo, bo bo bo bo bo..." Sing it loudly, then quietly and then change the vowel: "bi bi bi bi bi, bi bi bi bi bi..."
- ☺ Use playdough to make things that start with a certain sound. For example, if your child is practicing the "g" sound, make geese, girls, goats, golf balls and other things that start with "g."
- ☺ Playing different kinds of games can also help your child listen to and practice a particular sound. For example, the "s" sound is used many times in the game "I Spy With My Little Eye".

For more information, contact your community speech-language pathologist.