



## Speech and Language Therapy Service

# General Speech Tips

### Help me to use actions to show you what I want

Use of gestures or actions can help your child to get their message across and reduce frustration.

### Get down to my level

When you're face to face, your child can watch the way you say the sounds in words.

### Help me learn what sounds are in words

Give your child more information about what sounds are in words (e.g. "car... ooh car has a 'c/k' sound in it. Listen... car - did you hear it?")

Avoid pressurising them to repeat it, just keep it positive and encourage them to listen to you saying it.

### Let me hear how I should say my words

If your child says a word unclearly, do not tell them they said it wrong or pressure them to say it again. Instead, say the word yourself, clearly, to show you have understood and so they can hear the correct way to say it.

Child: "Look, a guck!"  
Adult: "Yes, a duck!"



### Raise my awareness of sounds by going on 'treasure hunts' or playing 'I spy'

Find things around the house that begin with a sound that is tricky for them to say (don't worry about how your child is saying the words – the key here is that they hear YOU saying them lots of times).

Even though they might not quite get the game right, hearing you play 'I spy' means they will hear you saying words (with the sound they need to develop) lots of times.

### Help me listen to all the sounds/parts in a word

Help your child to hear the sounds in each beat of a word as you say them. Children's own names, family/friends names or favourite characters can be a good place to start. Clap the words out, saying each sound part of the word as you do (e.g. di-no-saur).