

HANDY TIPS FOR EARLY SOUND AWARENESS



Children with speech and/or language difficulties often need to improve their listening skills and awareness of different sounds.

You can help by giving your child lots of experiences with different sounds:

1. Collect various things which could make a noise
e.g. spoon and saucepan lid, wooden spoon – for banging
whistle, paper horn – for blowing
bunch of keys, rattle – for shaking
 - Put out 2 or 3 items in front of your child
 - Show what sound each object makes.
 - Get your child to turn his back or close his eyes.
 - Make one of the sounds for him to listen to.
 - See if your child can tell you which object made the sound.
 - Take turns to do this activity letting your child make the sounds as well.
2. Play musical statues. Play some music and get your child to move around. When the music stops, they have to stop moving and stay as still as possible.
3. Point out various sounds and noises you can hear e.g. door banging, phone ringing, water running in the bath, washing machine, cars, aeroplane, dog barking, birds singing, leaves rustling, etc.
4. Go for a listening walk and ask your child what they can hear, where is the sound coming from?
5. Sing familiar rhymes / songs or read a familiar story leaving out the last word of the line e.g. “Humpty Dumpty sat on a _____”

Encourage your child to finish off the line.

You can make this harder by leaving out a word in the middle of the line.

6. Use toy animals or pictures to teach the animal noises to your child. Encourage your child to copy you making the noise.

Take two different animals (e.g. cat and duck). When you say “miaow” your child should put the cat in a box, when you say “quack” your child should put the duck in the box. You can make this harder by using more animals.