

Activities to help listening and awareness of sounds in words

This leaflet is about how to help your child to develop their skills in listening to sounds in words. Your child may be able to hear well, but needs to learn to listen to the small differences between speech sounds. This will help to develop their speech.

Share rhyming songs and books with rhyming words in them with you child

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/sounds-at-storytime/zbpk92p>

Share songs and rhymes. Pause before the rhyming words to see if your child can fill the gap e.g. "Hickory dickory **dock**, the mouse ran up the**clock**"

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/michael-finnegan/zmsc92p>

Make deliberate mistakes in familiar rhymes – see if your child notices e.g. "Twinkle twinkle little **star**, how I wonder what you **car**"

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/changing-nursery-rhyme-words/zrmggwx>

Try making up your own rhyming words. You can include nonsense words that rhyme.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/daddy-freckle-rhyming-games/zj4k92p>

Clap out words with your child to help them understand words have different rhythms

e.g. ra-bbit (2 claps)
e-le-phant (3 claps)

Find objects around the house that begin with a specific sound e.g. find things beginning with a 'b' sound or a 't' sound. You could play "I spy" while out and about.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/playing-i-spy/zhb7qp3>