

Early Years Team

Modelling speech in everyday language

It is important that your child can hear how words are meant to sound, even if they are not ready to use these themselves yet.

Try the following for 5 minutes:

- ***Let your child choose a toy***
- ***Sit silently with them and wait for him/her to make eye contact- Eye contact is important for sound development as it allows the child to see your mouth for speech movements.***
- ***When your child makes eye contact (showing that the adult has the child's full attention), respond by naming what he/she is playing with (e.g. "car/teddy/cup") or by using an action word to describe what he/she is doing (e.g. "pushing/driving/eating").***
- ***Really emphasise the sounds in your words so that the child can clearly see and hear the words you are modelling (e.g. modelling the end sound is important if your child is missing them off i.e. pig).***

You can also do this when you are out and about e.g. if you are at the park and your child is trying to say something, get down to their level so that they can make eye contact and clearly name what they are playing with.

Please do not ask your child to repeat your speech as this might be too hard to do. They will start to use these words when they are ready.

Links

Early Years Speech and Language Team – try this first [Try-this-first-RG-SaLT-.pdf](#)