

Language Development

Improving the making of sounds

Handy Hints 2

These are fun activities to do with all young children, and may be particularly helpful for children who have difficulty saying individual sounds clearly.

Babbling to child and repeating the sounds made. Encouraging activities that produce sounds, for example bath time, tickling and laughing.

Encouraging all attempts at talking, whether it sounds like a proper word or not. Where appropriate, imitate the word back to help the child discover that making sounds and producing "words" evokes a response from you and is fun.

When learning to talk, it is important that a child hears the same words again and again, so parents should be advised to repeat phrases such as "There's a cow, can you see a cow?".

Imitating sounds of animals etc.

Repeating poems or songs involving sounds, for example Old MacDonald, The Wheels on the Bus, Five Fat Sausages. Listening and singing along to tapes of nursery rhymes in the car.

Sorting pictures according to the initial or final sound.

Reading Dr Seuss books or similar.

Cutting out and sticking pictures of words beginning with the same letter on to sheets of paper.

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