

Speech and Language Therapy

Top Tips for Unclear Speech

Keep it visual

Encourage your child to show you what they mean by pointing and using natural gesture. You could use general actions or Makaton signs. This can help to ease their frustration.



Repeat Back the Right Way

Model back your child's unclear words using the correct speech sounds. For example if your child says 'yut tar!' you can repeat back 'look car!' This shows them the right way without putting any pressure on them.

Interpret

Get down to your child's level and try to work out what they are saying. This shows that you are listening and trying to understand.



Pictures and Gestures

Make a book with familiar everyday words, photos and pictures. Choose things that will help them to ask for things and talk about what they like e.g. 'drink', 'car', 'baby', 'apple', 'Nanny' and 'Mummy'. Looking at this together will build their confidence to talk more.

bal | loon
el | e | phant
al | pha | bet

Sound bags

Collect objects and pictures beginning with the same sound and put them in a bag. Encourage your child to take the items out whilst you name them. Repeat this so that your child hears the target sound lots of times. It is ok if they don't say the word themselves.

Break it Down

Try breaking longer words into chunks so that your child can work out how each bit should sound. You can also gently tap out the beats on their body as you say the word eg 'Je-ssi-ca', 'e-le-phant', 'ba-na-na'.



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