

## Speech Sound Awareness Activities

Try the following activities to support a child's ability to hear the sounds in words. Remember that the focus of these activities is on listening and not for the child to say the words.

### Nursery Rhymes



- Sing nursery rhymes together
- Sit facing the child so they can see your mouth moving
- Be animated and make it fun! Use gestures and use your voice to make it exciting
- 'Chunk' the parts together, leaving gaps between phrases
- Emphasise the rhyming words
- When the child is familiar with a nursery rhyme, try leaving out a rhyming word to see if the child can remember it.



### Clapping Out Syllables

- It might be easier to use the word 'claps' or 'taps' when introducing syllables to the child, e.g. "how many claps are in the word?"
- You need to model syllables first for the child to begin to understand how you are breaking up words. You can do this by clapping out the syllables in familiar words such as names of family members and friends, e.g. 'Char-lotte' and tapping on the table the number of syllables in objects around you e.g. 'pen', 'pen-cil', 'ru-ler', 'te-le-vis-ion' etc
- Point out items in books/ catalogues and identify the syllables e.g. 'ae-ro-plane' 'sun-shine'

### Phonics Games



- Look at books and pictures where pictures are used to represent sound e.g. 'Jollyphonics,' 'Ruth Miskin,' 'Letters and Sounds,' 'Read, Write, Inc'
- If the sounds also have actions, teach the children these through songs, listening to CDs etc.
- Put the pictures out on the floor so the children can see them. The adult says one of the sounds and the children listen and identify it.

## Identifying Words that are the Same/Different



- Make a puppet or soft toy 'say' a selection of words
- The child needs to listen to the toy saying two words and decide if they are the same or different
- Initially try and choose words that are very different, e.g. sausage...egg
- If the child can do this, choose words that sound similar e.g. sun...mum
- Then try words that only differ by one sound (known as 'minimal pairs') e.g. fun...sun, fat...cat, dog...frog, boy...toy, book...look, tin...pin, man...van, glove...love

## First Sound Matching



- Say to the child that you want to fill a bag with things that start with the letter '...' Walk around the room to find items that start with that letter. If the child chooses an item incorrectly, tell them which letter it starts with. If they get it right, really emphasise the letter e.g. 'well done! Snake starts with ssssssssss'
- Take turns to think of words that start with the letter '...' e.g. 'Ben' 'bin' 'big' 'bed'
- Play 'I spy...' where children need to listen to the first letter and find a word that starts with it.