

## Generalisation of speech sound skills

Often a child is able to say a sound in structured activities when they are concentrating on speech, but it can be harder to remember to use it in conversation. This is called “generalising”.

Generalising a sound to everyday conversation takes longer and requires lots of practice. Here are some things you can do to help.

Play games to practice using the target:

- i-spy (things that start with...)
- I went shopping and bought ...
- look and listen for your target sounds in books and games or when you're out and about

Make up special looks / gestures to help the child remember.  
e.g. fish sign to remember ffff

Pretend to misunderstand when they get thing wrong.

Offer **choices** when you notice a mistake.

e.g. Child: “The bish is swimming”

Adult: “The **b**ish or the fish?”

Child: “**F**ish”

Adult: “yes, the fish is swimming!”

The above is giving them an example to copy. When they no longer need this, it can be helpful to encourage the child to work towards correcting their own speech, by sometimes presenting it as a question e.g. “the bish is swimming?”

It can become frustrating if a child is trying to tell you something but you're thinking about how they said it! Try not to draw attention to every mistake – choosing a specific time of day e.g. at a meal time or in a specific class activity works really well.

Modelling the sound at other times e.g. if they say “tar”, you can say “yes, it's a star” (without correcting or asking for repetition) is still helping them hear the difference.