

Encouraging Early Sounds

Why is it important to encourage early sounds?

Learning to make noises and sounds is an important stage in learning to communicate and talk. Children may use sounds to express themselves before they use words.

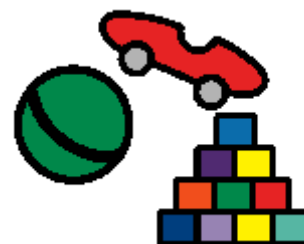
How to develop early sounds

Play Peek-a-Boo using hats, scarves, sunglasses or clothing when dressing



Copy the sounds/vocalisations the child makes such as coughs and yawns as well as babble. Pause and give them time to repeat the sound back and then do it again.

Choose an exciting toy, such as a pop-up toy, the child likes. When they vocalise, make the toy work.



Further activities include the following:

- Play with balloons, blowing them up and letting them go. Copy the noise they make.
- Using sounds in play, e.g. “mmm” when eating, “ahhh” when hugging a teddy, “oh-oh” when toy cars crash, animal noises, “brmm” for cars, “knock, knock” on a door.
- Making silly faces and noises in the mirror.
- Using microphones, boxes, tins, cardboard tubes which echo or make interesting sounds when you vocalise into them.
- Popping bubble wrap or bubbles in the bath or water tray and making the sound- “pop”.
- Singing action songs which have fun sounds in, you could try,
 - “Row the Boat”- “if you see a crocodile don’t forget to scream! **Aargh!**”
 - “Five Fat Sausages”- “one went **Pop!**”

