

Where to start if you are concerned about your child's speech sounds

If your child struggles to say certain sounds, or is difficult to understand, this can be frustrating. There are lots of things that can be done to help.

There is general advice and strategies in our [Helping Children with Speech Sounds](#) leaflet, and below are some ideas you can try, with some links to our Toolkit documents with more information.

If you see progress, keep going!! Progress comes in little steps and can take time.

Modelling is a useful strategy – it means making sure your child hears the correct way to say a word without correcting them which often doesn't work.

See our toolkit sheet on [Modelling](#) for more information

It is important to know that some speech sounds develop later than others, and it is typical for young children not to be able to say some sounds.

See our [Speech Wheel](#) to see what is expected and when.

Sounds often develop in the same order, even if they develop later than the wheel shows.

There are lots of games you can play that build the skills needed to develop clear speech. These games will also prepare your child for speech sound intervention if this is needed.

Start with our toolkit sheets on [Encouraging Early Sounds](#), [Speech Sound Awareness Activities](#) and [Getting Ready for Speech](#)

If your child is still using a dummy it is a good idea to reduce and preferably stop this because using a dummy can impact the development of clear speech. Our [Dummy Wise leaflet](#) has more information.

If you have tried these strategies and you are still concerned, you can refer your child to our service using the referral form on the web site [here](#).

