

# Helping Speech Develop



Research has shown that parents are not responsible for delays in a child's speech development. However parents can make a big difference to the child's speech development by changing the way they talk and listen to their child.

- 1) Encourage your child to listen to different sounds around them e.g. police car, toilet flushing, vacuum cleaner, aeroplane, next door's dog etc.
- 2) Talk about the sounds you hear and describe them e.g. loud or quiet, long or short, high or low.
- 3) Encourage your child to play with sounds e.g. blowing raspberries, funny laughs, animal sounds.
- 4) Tell your child nursery rhymes and sing simple songs. The ones where you can do actions are the best.
- 5) Encourage all your child's attempts to communicate. Talking is only one way to communicate. Actions, pointing, pulling faces even crying are all ways a child can tell you something.
- 6) Watch your child carefully and listen to them. Wait for them to tell you something whatever way they can.
- 7) Copy your child's sounds, words or actions. This lets them know you have understood and encourages them to try again.
- 8) Slow down. If you slow your speech down your child will find it easier to keep up.
- 9) If your child makes a mistake, say what they said back the right way e.g. if they say 'pid', you say 'That's right it's a pig'.
- 10) Don't make your child say things back after you. If you give them time you will find they do this naturally.