

Speech and Language Therapy Department



SPEECH SCRAPBOOKS

If a child's speech is unclear...

TRY TO

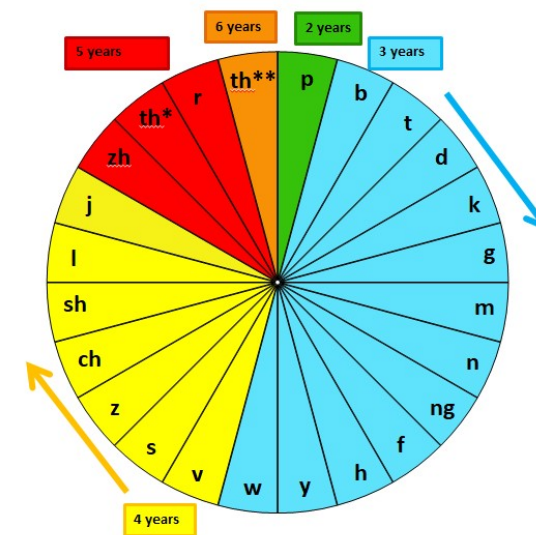
- ✓ Encourage your child to talk as much as possible. The more they practice the better they will become.
- ✓ Make sure your child can see your face clearly when you are talking to him/her. This will help them to see and hear how you make the sounds.
- ✓ Accept any attempt at a word as a good try then repeat back the word to them clearly and emphasise the target sound.
- ✓ Practice in front of a mirror. Use this to try out tricky sounds and see if your child can copy them. Talk about where your tongue is when you make the sound.
- ✓ Be honest and say when you don't understand. Be sympathetic and/or put the blame on yourself by saying 'my ears aren't working properly today'.

TRY NOT TO

- ✗ Try not to make your child repeat their tricky sound over and over. Don't ask them to imitate the correct pronunciation if they have not already achieved this in structured practice.
- ✗ Try not to let other children make fun of his/her attempts at words
- ✗ Don't necessarily expect your child to be able to say a sound in a word, sentence or in different situations straight away, even if they can say the sound on its own. This takes time to develop.

How Speech Sounds Develop

Across the World



* = voiced (e.g. **th**is)
** = voiceless (e.g. **th**ing)

McLeod, S., & Crowe, K. (2018). Children's consonant acquisition in 27 languages: Across-linguistic review. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 27, 1546-1571. Revised Feb 2022 AT

What is a speech scrapbook?

A scrapbook is a book that you and your child can make together by sticking in pictures and photos of words starting with particular sounds. You can both look in catalogues, magazines, internet, old books or family photos and pick out pictures that your child wants to talk about.

Start with sounds at the beginning of the wheel and work your way round. Spend a week finding and talking about these pictures, and then introduce a new sound.

How to practice?

Look at the scrapbook together, talk about each picture, emphasising the special sound at the beginning.

If your child doesn't get the sound quite right do not correct them (as we want to build their confidence) but model the correct way back, putting a bit more emphasis on the bit they got wrong.

For instance, if they say 'an' for 'man', you can say, "It's a **mm**an", by exaggerating the 'm' sound. Your child should start to find this easier to make himself/herself.

For instance, if they say 'pish' instead of 'fish', you can say: "That's right, it's a fish, it begins with the sound 'f'. Let's make a 'f' sound together, 'fffff'."

What else can help?

- Sing nursery rhymes
- Make up silly rhymes, e.g. "The cat has a hat on the mat with a bat"
- Clap out syllables of children's names or objects in a bag. This could be done as a warm up activity in class. Younger children may not be able to do this independently – this is ok! You can help to build their awareness by using your hands over theirs to help them clap the syllables.
- Play the 'I spy' game with the target sound



Keep it fun—enjoy your time together and always remember to praise your child for trying!