



# Pathways to Success

Helpful Strategies for Parents and Caregivers of Young Children

## Fun with Sounds

We make many different sounds when we speak. Some children have problems learning the sounds they need to speak clearly. Listening activities and games are a fun way to practice speech sounds. Children learn best when they are having fun.

**Here are some listening activities and games you can try with a child:**

- Emphasize the sound at the beginning of a word. For example, if you want to focus your child's attention on the "s" sound, say "s-s-s-snake," "s-s-s-snack," "s-s-s-story," or other words that start with "s."
- Pair a sound with an animal, action or object. For example, "s-s-s" is the snake sound, "k-k-k" is the coughing sound and "la" is the singing sound. This activity is especially helpful for a child who has not learned how to read.
- Collect or draw pictures of things starting with a particular sound. For example, if you want the child to listen to the "f" sound, start a scrapbook of things that start with "f."
- Choose books that have many words starting with the sound child is learning. The book, "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," by Dr. Seuss is a great book to have fun with while your child hears the "f" or "sh" sounds.
- Children love music and enjoy singing songs over and over! A song filled with a particular speech sound is a great way to let your child hear and practice that sound. For example, "Mary had a Little Lamb" is a good song for practicing the "l" sound.
- Play with sounds by singing a tune like, "Row, row, row your boat," but use a syllable like "bo" instead of the words: "bo bo bo bo bo, bo bo bo bo bo...: Sing it loudly, then quietly and then change the vowel: "bi bi bi bi bi, bi bi bi bi bi..."
- Use playdough to make things starting with a certain sounds. For example, if your child is practicing the "g" sound, make goldfish, girl, goat, golf ball and other things starting with "g".
- Playing different kinds of games can also help your child listen to and practice a particular sound. For example, the "s" sound is used many times in the game "I Spy with My Little Eye."