

How to... Teach Speech Sounds

1. Hearing the difference

First children need to recognise the positions of sounds in a word.

E.g., listening to sounds in minimal pairs (such as pen and pan) and picking the correct card or seeing if they can hear the sound at the beginning or end of a word

2. Saying the sound in isolation

Explain how to produce a sound, including where to put your teeth, tongue and lips, and how this looks and feels at the start and end of the sound.

Practice the speech sound daily for a maximum of 10 minutes during a specific 'speech sound' slot.

3. Saying with a vowel and in a word

Once children can say the sound in isolation, model how to say the sound with a vowel and practice this.

Progressing to say the sound in a word once they have the sound with a vowel.

4. Saying the sound in a phrase, sentence and conversation

Once children can say the sound in a word, the next step is phrases, sentences and then conversation.

Use sound prompt cards to remind children of the target sound.

