

HANDY HINTS 2

Language Development
Improving the making
of sounds

These are fun activities to do with all young children, and may be particularly helpful for children who have difficulty saying individual sounds clearly.

Producing sounds

Babbling to child and repeating the sounds made. Encouraging activities that produce sounds, for example bath time, tickling and laughing.

Producing "words"

Encouraging all attempts at talking, whether it sounds like a proper word or not. Where appropriate, imitate the word back to help the child discover that making sounds and producing "words" evokes a response from you and is fun.

Repeating phrases

When learning to talk, it is important that a child hears the same words again and again, so parents should be advised to repeat phrases such as "There's a cow, can you see a cow?".

Other sounds

Imitating sounds of animals etc.

Repeating poems or songs

Repeating poems or songs involving sounds, for example "Old MacDonald", "The Wheels on the Bus", "Five Fat Sausages". Listening and singing along to tapes of nursery rhymes in the car.

Sorting pictures

Sorting pictures according to the initial or final sound.

Reading

Reading Dr Seuss books or similar.

Same letter words

Cutting out and sticking pictures of words beginning with the same letter on to paper.