



## Playing With Sounds



- Although you may want to focus on the sounds a child **cannot do**, it will be important to give them opportunities to play with sounds they **can achieve**, so that they can feel some success.
- Typically, children start to **play with making sounds** and then go on to **learn that sounds can be used to communicate**.

### Activity ideas for encouraging early sound making:

Always position yourself during sound activities so that you are at your **child's level** and they can see **your face**. They are more likely to copy you successfully if they can see how to make the sounds.

#### Environmental sounds

Point out and copy noises in your environment e.g. noisy books, phones ringing 'ring ring', sirens 'nee nor nee nor', cars 'vvrur'. Encourage the child to have a go.



#### Make sounds during play activities

Play sounds are a sound that represents an action e.g. "Brum" for 'car'. Model play sounds to your child through play when they occur such as 'beep!', 'on no!', 'mmm!' Use these regularly to encourage the child to also use these.



#### Create opportunities

Make new opportunities within play to practice sounds e.g.

- 'b b b' while bouncing a ball
- 'mmm' eating something yummy!
- saying "duhduhduh" as you bang a drum
- 'p p p' when popping bubbles
- tap dripping – 't..t..t..t'
- 'fffff' to show the action of a rocket
- snake says "ssss"



#### Mirror games

Activities with copying facial expressions can be helpful in providing visual feedback for a child and can also be used to positively reinforce a child's attempt at the individual sounds. Make sounds such as blowing raspberries, lip smacking, hissing. Encourage your child to copy you.