

**Developing Listening Skills and Speech Sounds**

2 - 3 years



Help your child learn to use words that have the *k, g, f, t, d,* and *n* sounds. As you are setting the table, use words like *cup, family, table, dinner, napkins, dish, time.*

Ask your child to repeat what he says when you don't understand him. Model the correct pronunciation in your own speech.

Talk about the sounds you hear in the kitchen (*water running, cabinet and refrigerator doors closing, tea kettle whistling*).



Talk about the sounds you hear around you while at a baseball game (*crack of the bat, people cheering*).

Listen together to the sounds that animals make. Imitate the sounds and talk about the animals.

Help your child hear the differences in sounds. Make different sounds with different parts of your body (*clap your hands, stomp your feet, click your tongue*). Have your child close his eyes and see if he can identify the source of your sound.

**Getting Ready for Reading and Writing**

6 months - 1 year



Call attention to vehicles and the sounds they make.

See if your child can identify familiar sounds. While in the car, clap your hands, whistle, hum, crumple paper, snap your fingers, and see if he can make the same sounds.

Ask your child to imitate sounds he hears. When you are visiting the zoo, ask him to say *ssss* like a snake and *grrrrr* like a bear.



Respond to your child even when she does not say all sounds correctly.

Give her a drink of water when she says *I want wa-wa*. Model the correct pronunciation in your own speech.

Help your child tune into sounds. As you wait in line, show him your keys. Talk about the use for each key. Emphasize the *k* sound. *This key is for mommy's car. This key is for daddy's car.*

Help your child remember what he hears and follow two requests. Ask him to *put two red apples in the bag and put them in the cart.*

**Getting Ready for Reading and Writing**

1 - 2 years