

## TOP 10 TIPS FOR SUPPORTING SPEECH DEVELOPMENT

1. **Be aware** of the child's speech **sound errors** and current **therapy goals**.
2. **'Model & Recast' errors** during conversation.
  - Particularly **reinforce the child's current therapy targets** throughout the day  
eg. Child: "I want the lelow one" A: "I want the yellow one. You can have the yellow one! It's a big yellow book. What else is yellow?"
3. **Talk about 'fixing up mistakes'** and why it's important.
  - eg. Adult: "When we talk we need to say the right word the right way so people will know what we mean." You couldn't say, 'I eat my dinner with a walk' could you? People would get mixed up if I said that. I really should say, 'I eat my dinner with a fork'. We need to say the right words so that people will know what we mean"
4. **Show** how you **'fix up' your own mistakes**
  - eg. Adult: "It is too wet to mow the yawn...um...I meant 'lawn.' That was a fixed-up-one! First I said 'yawn' and then I quickly fixed it up and said 'lawn.' It's too wet to mow the lawn."
5. **Praise** readily & **be specific**
  - Praise **correct speech** "I like the way you said shoe with a clear 'sh' sound in it"
  - Praise **improved attempts** eg. A: "What colour is that?" C: "Bat!" A: "Mmmm?" C: "Berlat!" A: "That sounded more like black. I like the way you fixed it up!"
  - Praise **self-corrections** eg. A: "That was a good 'fixed-up-one. First you said 'tar,' and then you fixed it up all by yourself and said 'car'. The best thing is that you reminded yourself"
6. **Support** the child **when you can't understand their message** by;
  - Being **honest** and gently explaining that you haven't understood
  - Asking the child to **show you, act out or draw** what they want to say
  - Asking **leading questions** to try and narrow the topic eg. A: "Is it about the weekend?"
7. Create a **shared context** and provide **positive experiences** of being understood
  - Talk about a book, picture, activity that is present
  - Ask **closed questions** eg. "Did you see Nana?" rather than "what did you do?"
  - Use a **home-school communication** book for you and the child's parents to write about events that the child may want to talk about.
8. Talk lots about **'How Sounds are Made'** (refer to the 'Listening to Sounds to Help Literacy' program).
9. Reinforce **target sounds when reading** using the above strategies.
10. Incorporate **sound awareness activities** wherever possible. Have games available (rhyming bingo, syllable cards, sound lotto) for children to play when they show an interest.