

Talking Matters

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Helping your child to reach their potential



Goal: Hearing the last sound in words

To develop the ability to hear end sounds in words

Before children are able to read and spell they must be able to hear the sounds in words and then be able to match them to the letters used to represent them.

Here are some game ideas to help develop children's ability to hear sounds at the endings of words. There is no magic trick to teaching children to hear sounds. They need lots of chances to listen and hear, and even more chances to practice.

- Choose pairs of items that end with different sounds. Choose carefully so that words end with a vowel and a single final consonant (e.g. cat, dog, leg) and not with words that end with 2 consonants (e.g. nest, jump). Take turns to remove items from the bag and attempt to collect the matching pair e.g. cat-goat, bus-dress, pen-pin. The person with the most matching pairs is the winner.
- Play "I spy" e.g. [adult] "I spy, with my little eye, something that ends with a 'c'." [child] truck! This is a great game to play in the car, turning a short drive to the shops into a mini therapy session.
- Play the "Sound Bucket Game". Use a bucket to collect as many things as you can that end with a chosen sound. For this game to be useful try to select a sound where you can see lots of easy to find items that will fit in the bucket. To modify this slightly you could play this packing up items at home. E.g. "let's put all the things that end with a 'b' in the toy box first!"
- Play ball games either kicking, rolling, or throwing the ball and thinking of another word that ends with the special sound as you have your turn. To make it interesting, each player could have 3 lives and loses a life when he can't think of a word with the right sound.
- Play memory with a difference. Make picture cards by cutting out pictures from magazines, or printing off the internet (talk about the ending sounds as you do this together to). Find pairs that match because they have the same ending sound.
- When shopping talk about the ending sounds of all the groceries you buy.
- Play games in which you work out the ending sound. E.g. "let's work out what the last sound is in all our friend's names" "What is the last sound in the name Sam?"

