

Fun, engaging games to play with just a set of pictures, target words, or target sounds to help develop speech – collated by S.McLeod (Dover STLS)

- Hide the pictures around the room to find and say out loud... hide n seek key word items
- Spread the pictures out on the floor - throw a beanbag or rolled up sock and say the word that the bean bag lands on
- Spread pictures of target words and sounds around outdoor area, and use space hoppers to travel between – say the word/sound as reached
- Put the pictures in a ‘mystery’ bag with some other motivational toys... take turns to choose item from bag
- What’s in the box? using objects that have target words/sounds/phrases
- ‘Kim’s game’ Place 4-5 pictures on the table. With the children’s eyes closed, take one away, which one has gone?
- Spread the pictures across the floor (or even one on each stair), jump from one to the other and say the words as they go.
- Stick the pictures up around the room. Say a word, all run to the one you said. Then ask the children which picture they ran to. Encourage the children to give instructions to do the running....
- If you have two sets of pictures, play a game of memory pairs. Use 6 or so pairs of pictures, mix them up and spread them out face down on the table. Take turns to turn over two pictures and say them. If they are the same, keep them. If they are different, turn them back over. The winner is the one with the most pairs.
- Lay several pictures out on the table. Describe one of them and see if they can tell you which one you were talking about.
- Find a soft indoor ball and a bucket or bin. Ask to say a word and then throw the ball into the bucket/bin. Older children often enjoy moving the bucket a little further away each time and seeing if they can still get the ball in – or skittles/bulldog clips offer a different twist – or ‘Puff ball’ knockout games



- For a child who likes cars, lay out a long line of pictures like a road (or a track for a train), encourage driving their favourite vehicle over the cars and say the words as it is driven over them.
- Buy a small magnet and make a fishing rod with a stick and a piece of string. Attach paper clips to the pictures and “fish” for the words.

'Board' games - Any simple turn-taking game can be good to make speech work more interesting. It needs to be a game with short turns so that you spend more time practising than you do focussed on the game. The idea is that whatever game you're using, you ask the child to say their word, sentence or string of words/ sounds before they take a turn. Some game ideas that children of different ages enjoy:



Snap, Lotto and Zingo are engaging games that provide repeated opportunities to model, hear and say the target words





How to Produce Speech Sounds

Below are some ideas of how you can help your child to elicit sounds that they are finding tricky.

Sound	What to do
M	<p>Ask your child to push his lips together and make a humming noise. All of the air should come through the nose. Ask your child to put his hand on his nose to feel a slight vibration.</p> <p>Explain that this is the 'loud yummy dinner sound'</p>
P	<p>Ask your child to push his lips together and to push them apart with a quiet puff of air.</p> <p>Encourage your child to look at your lips coming together/ look in a mirror together</p> <p>Explain that this sound is the 'quiet popping sound'</p>
B	<p>Same as the 'p' but with a loud voice.</p> <p>Explain that this sound is the 'loud popping sound'</p>
T	<p>Tell your child to tap his tongue behind his teeth gently. Touching the area behind teeth with your finger helps the tongue find this place/ putting sticky food (e.g. peanut butter/ jam) on the spot right behind the top, front teeth. Have your child lick it off to feel where the sound needs to start from. When you are describing that spot again, call it the 'sticky spot'.</p>
N	<p>Ask your child to put his tongue behind the top teeth (same place as 't' and 'd' sounds) and make a humming sound. All of the air should come through the nose. Ask your child to put his hand on his nose to feel a slight vibration.</p>
F	<p>Tell your child to bite his/ her bottom lip and blow out. Use a mirror so your child can see their rabbit's teeth. Have feathers/ paper on your hand that will blow away when the 'f' sound is produced to make it visual</p>
K	<p>This is a 'back of the mouth' sound. Use a 'magic finger'/ lolly pop stick to gently push the front of the tongue down. Pushing down the front of the tongue will stop it raising up to say 't' and will encourage the back of the tongue to move.</p> <p>Encourage your child to keep their mouth open wide like a crocodile. Ask them to produce k/g without closing their mouth. Your child may find this helpful to do in front of the mirror.</p> <p>Have your child lay on his back while saying this sound. Gravity may help him drop his tongue back.</p>
S	<p>Tell your child to put his tongue behind his teeth, make a smile and blow out. If air escapes from the sides of your mouth (may sound 'slushy') try to push the sides of your tongue against your back teeth. If your child is sticking his tongue out too far, look in a mirror and tell him to keep his tongue behind his teeth. You can practice smiling so that his teeth are touching and there is no place for the tongue to peak out. Another method is to say a 't' sound quickly and repetitively until it becomes an 's' e.g., 'ttttttttttt-sss'</p> <p>Link toys to the sound: snake says 's'</p>