

## Games and Ideas

- Play more games with rhyme, for example: I hear with my little ear something that rhymes with...e.g. sock (clock)
- Get your child to find all the things in the house that start with the sound 's' e.g. sink, sock, salt, sofa, sandwich
- Using a magazine, for example an Argos catalogue, get your child to cut out all the things beginning with the sound 'p' e.g. pillow, pens, puzzles, Postman Pat. You could stick these pictures onto one page. Repeat this on another page for a different sound
- Play a stepping stones game: cut out some stone shapes from paper and place on the floor. Each time your child steps on a 'stone' you say a **sound** e.g. 'Kuh' and your child tells you a word that starts with that sound for example cat or key

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development please speak to your child's teacher or contact your health visitor or doctor.

You can also call the speech and language call management centre 02896158100

# Developing Your Child's Phonological Awareness





## What is Phonological Awareness?

- Phonological awareness means awareness of sounds in words. Words can be broken up into smaller parts called syllables or into individual sounds
- Phonological Awareness relates to speech sounds and not written letters. Children should develop a good awareness of speech sounds before they move on to thinking about letters. When we talk about sounds in this leaflet we mean spoken speech sounds
- Phonological awareness develops through childhood. Children with good phonological awareness skills are more likely to become successful readers
- Phonological awareness involves a range of skills including:
  - ➔ syllable awareness - being able to break words up into smaller parts e.g. kan-ga-roo (3 syllables)
  - ➔ rhyme awareness e.g. hen, ten, pen
  - ➔ first sound awareness being able to identify words that start with the same sound e.g. fork, farm, four
  - ➔ recognising that words are made up of separate sounds e.g. cat (c-a-t) 3 sounds
- Good attention and listening skills are essential for developing phonological awareness skills



## How can I support my child's phonological awareness?

- Sing lots of Nursery Rhymes with your child e.g. Humpty Dumpty, Incy Wincy Spider, Baa Baa Black Sheep. When your child is familiar with these leave out the last word and see if they can fill it in e.g. Humpty Dumpty sat on a .....
- Have fun with rhyme by making deliberate mistakes e.g.
  - "Humpty Dumpty sat on a fence" see if your child notices your mistake and can correct you!
  - Use rhyme in everyday situations e.g.
    - "See you later alligator, in a while crocodile"
    - "Night night sleep tight don't let the bed bugs bite"
- Have fun with strings of rhyming words, real or made up e.g. fun, bun, lun, sun, mun. You can also have fun with your child's name e.g. Mark..., park, fark, lark, bark
- Teach your child that words have smaller parts by clapping the syllables e.g. elephant: el-e-phant (3 claps)
  - window: win-dow (2 claps)
  - caterpillar: cat-er-pill-ar (4 claps)