

Helping children



With speech difficulties

1 - Asking a child to repeat a word until they get it right isn't useful. Instead say the word back to them and give them a great model of how the word should sound.

2 – Let them know you understood by using the word yourself. Slightly stressing the tricky sound lets them hear how it sounds when an adult says it.

3 – Encourage them to look at you when you say new or tricky words. It is a brilliant way to help them store it accurately.

4 – Cut down background noise. They can't store it accurately if they can't hear it clearly.

5 – Say new words in isolation before you put them in a sentence.

6 - Help children to store a new word accurately by segmenting it into syllables for them. Clap it out and say it one syllable at a time.

7 – Never pretend to understand when you don't. Children usually know and it doesn't make them feel good. Say you don't understand but be supportive.

8 - When you don't understand a child try going back to the last thing you DID understand and trying to move forward again. It's a great way of getting children to say it again without actually having to say "say it again".

9 – Using a home-school book in which significant events are noted can give you that all-important context and help children get their message across.

10 - make sure that the child has the concepts needed for speech work. Do they understand 'same' and 'different'? Do they understand 'first' and 'last'? If not then they are not ready to work on speech - or phonics!