



## **SPEECH AND LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL- AGED CHILDREN**

Elklan Training run courses delivered by speech and language therapists and specialist teachers. We want to share some simple techniques and activities that we have recommended over the years that you can use at home with children to support their language and communication skills. These activities may be useful to help children with learning and keeping them focused and engaged. These activities can be used every day and really work!

### **Awareness of Sounds in Words**



Children need to learn to listen to and identify sounds in words to help them develop skills for speech and reading and writing. Activities are listed below to help children with this area. They focus on developing awareness of rhyme, syllables and sounds in words.

#### **Rhyme awareness:**

- Read books and Identify words that rhyme.
- When reading or sharing books, leave out the last rhyming words. Can the child guess it?
- Play games to name words that rhyme. This can be words that rhyme with objects at home or out and about.
- Make up silly rhymes with your child.
- Read repetitive stories such as 'Going on a bear hunt', 'Each, peach, pear, plum'. These are good for developing awareness of rhythm and rhyme.

**Syllable awareness:**

- Syllable clapping. Clap out how many beats there are in a word. Split the words up into their syllables. Clapping out syllables in names is motivating and can be fun.
- Syllable pairs. Play a matching pairs game with words of different numbers of syllables. As you turn the cards over, you clap out the number of syllables in the word. If you have two cards the same, you keep them. The person who collects the most picture pairs is the winner.

**Speech sound awareness:**

- Play games to raise the child's awareness of different sounds. For example, naming as many words as you can think of beginning with 'b'.
- Get a collection of objects or pictures and ask the child to find all the objects beginning with a certain sound.
- Change the sound at the beginning of words. Choose a sound e.g. 't' and replace this at the beginning of other words. What words do you get? For example, four → tore, go → toe, dog → tog.
- Sound sorting. Ask the child to sort pictures or objects by the sound at the beginning or end. E.g. words beginning with 'p' or ending with 'p'.

If you would like to find out more about our e-learning opportunities please visit our website at <https://www.elklan.co.uk/information/practitioners/e-learning-opportunities> for a range of interactive courses to suit all ages, with or without accreditation.

For more information or advice about any of our courses or resources, and to find out about upcoming opportunities, please contact Clare on [clare@elklan.co.uk](mailto:clare@elklan.co.uk) or ring us on 01208 841450

Useful links and resources:

*Let's Talk with 3-5 s workbook (2018)* [www.elklan.co.uk](http://www.elklan.co.uk)

*Let's Talk with 5-11s workbook (2018)* [www.elklan.co.uk](http://www.elklan.co.uk)

*Language Builders. Practical advice, strategies and activities for school -age children (2012)* – [www.elklan.co.uk](http://www.elklan.co.uk)

STASS [www.stasspublications.co.uk](http://www.stasspublications.co.uk)