



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 everyday and really work!

Developing Sounds for Speech



Speech sounds develop over time and in stages. Therefore, Children may not yet have developed the full repertoire of sounds for speech or may show difficulties in this area.

Tips for children with unclear speech:

- Model correct speech sounds and words to your child. Repeat what your child has said using the correct words and sounds rather than making them say it again. With time they will be able to do it themselves but first they need to hear a good model from you.
- Encourage your child to show you what they want or mean. They can use also use gestures and pictures to help you understand. This will reduce frustration and help you to better understand their needs and wishes.
- React to what your child has said rather than the clarity of their speech. It is important that the child feels that what they have said has been listened to and valued. This will help boost their self-esteem and confidence to communicate.

Speech sound activities:

Before children can say sounds, they need to be able to hear them. It is a good idea to play games to develop awareness of different speech sounds. Game ideas include:

- *Posting cards* or counters in post boxes when they hear a specific sound.
- *Building towers*. Use two different sounds that are shown and depicted by a card. The adult says a sound randomly and the child puts a brick on the corresponding card. See how tall the child can make the tower. The bricks can be knocked down at the end of the game as a reward!
- *Run and Touch*. The child must run and touch the sound card every time an adult calls out the sound. You can play this inside or out and place the cards as far apart as you think the child will manage.
- *Sorting activities*. Use simple picture or words beginning with two sounds and read these aloud to the child. The child must sort words into those that begin with each sound.
- *Lotto*. Use pairs of words, one on a lotto board and another on a pile. The adult turns over each card on the pile and says the word. The child must put his hand up if he has the word on his board.
- Once the child can listen and identify the sounds you are working on, swap roles so that they do the speaking and you are the listener. Use the same game ideas for talking as for listening. If the child says the word or sound incorrectly, don't correct them. Using speech sounds takes time. Model back sounds instead.

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 or ring us on 01208 841450.

Useful links and resources:

U tube video, NHS Communication Station – Exploring speech sounds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNQN4sWaUsI>

Let's Talk with 3-5 s workbook (2018) www.elkan.co.uk

Let's Talk with 5-11s workbook (2018) www.elkan.co.uk

Language Builders. Practical advice, strategies and activities for school -age children (2012) www.elklan.co.uk

Blacksheep Press www.blacksheepress.co.uk

STASS Publications www.stasspublications.co.uk

AFASIC www.afasic.org.uk