



## Speech sound strategies for the classroom

- Listen to what the child is trying to say rather than how they are speaking. The more you listen, the easier it becomes to tune in.
- Repeat back clearly what the child has tried to say. Provide a good model. If you do have to ask the child to repeat themselves, try to ask them only once.
- Do not ask them to copy your speech
- If you can't understand, say so and ask the child to try and tell you in a different way, e.g. sign, point, show
- Praise the child when they speak well or use different ways to get their message across
- Provide visual supports in the classroom, e.g. drawing paper, pictures, symbols, and encourage the use of gesture and sign.
- If you use gestures and signs, children will use them with you too
- If you and the child get really stuck, move onto something else and try again later
- Develop peer group friendships
- Provide opportunities for the child to develop their skills at their pace and level
- Work on attention, listening and phonological awareness as these help many children with speech sound needs
- Be aware of the child's developmental level in relation to sounds they are using. They will be developing at their own pace and may need to work at an earlier level than their chronological age or the other children in class.

**Ask the speech and language therapist for advice on specific targets and activities. They can tell you which sounds to encourage and which may be particularly difficult for individual children.**