

PATIENT INFORMATION

Helping Children with Unclear Speech

Speech and Language Therapy Factsheet



- *Be a good listener*
Listen to **what** the child is saying and do not focus on **how** s/he is saying it, especially if you understand them.
- *Expect errors and ignore them*
All children and adults make some errors when they speak. Teasing hurts a child's feelings and never improves speech.
- *Model good speech*
When the child makes errors, repeat back what they have said modelling the correct pronunciation:

E.g. CHILD: 'tat' ADULT: 'yes, a cat'

Speak slowly and clearly. Don't ask the child to repeat after you or repeat the words they have mispronounced.
- *Avoid talking to other people about the child's speech in front of the child*
The child may understand what you are saying and this could upset them or make them feel self-conscious about talking.

www.childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.