

## Sound Bags

These activities are useful to help children to:

- Develop listening skills
- Improve sound awareness which is important for later speech sound development
- Encourage the use of 'symbolic sounds' which are stepping stones towards using words
- Provide opportunities for a child to copy sounds if they are able to

### How to make a sound bag:

Collect together objects that can be represented by a sound.

Examples are:

- Animals
- Vehicles
- Cake (yum, yum)
- Phone (ring ring) etc



Put the objects in a bag and take out one at a time, showing the child and making the sound for them. Let the child play with the objects for a while if they want to. Do not pressure the child to repeat the sound after you, just let them listen.

When you have a selection of objects out, ask the child to listen to you making one of the sounds and see if they can show you the right object, then put it back in the bag. Repeat this with the other objects.

When the child is becoming more familiar with the activity, see if they can make one of the sounds for you to listen to. Gently encourage them to try to repeat the sounds after you, but do not force this.

## Symbolic Sounds

Before learning their first words, lots of children use sounds which are associated with the object/ item they represent. These are short sounds or words which are:

- Easy to copy
- Fun to use
- Understood by adults

Try making these sounds when you are out and about, playing with toys, looking at books, playing games etc. They encourage early vocalisation, imitation, early vocabulary and understanding of the words they represent. Do not ask your child to copy the sounds but instead pause, giving them an opportunity to copy if they want to.

Some examples of symbolic sounds:

### Everyday

- ⇒ 'weee' - on a swing at the playground
- ⇒ 'mmm' - for food
- ⇒ 'tick tock' - for a watch/clock
- ⇒ 'uh-oh' - if you slip or drop something
- ⇒ 'shhh' - be quiet
- ⇒ 'aww' - when giving a cuddle
- ⇒ 'pop' with bubbles
- ⇒ 'bang' on the drum



### Transport

- ⇒ 'beep beep', 'brmm brmm' - cars
- ⇒ 'choo choo' - train
- ⇒ 'nee naw' - police car / ambulance / fire engine



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## Animals

- ⇒ 'quack quack' - duck
- ⇒ 'woof woof' - dog
- ⇒ 'meow' - cat
- ⇒ 'moo' - cow
- ⇒ 'rawr' - lion, dinosaur

Make your voice interesting by making it loud, quiet or excited when you use these sounds. You can also use gestures, for example gesturing honking a horn as you say 'beep beep'.