

Early Sound Development

Multi-Sensory Input Modelling

Multi-sensory input modelling is an approach where as many senses as possible are used to help teach young children how to say different sounds. Children learn to use sounds by watching, listening and planning how to make them. By using touch, hearing, seeing etc, they can learn all about how a sound is made.

Sounds made at the front of the mouth (e.g. p, b, t, d, f) are usually used in multisensory input modelling. The adult models the sound during play and during everyday activities.

Top Tips for Multi-Sensory Input Modelling

- It is important that you get down to the child's level when you are saying the sounds, making sure that they can see your face and mouth clearly
- There should not be any pressure on the child to copy the sound after you have modelled it for them. If they do try to say the sound, then they can be rewarded with praise – particularly if they copy the sound correctly
- Repetition is key – a few minutes of modelling the sounds, at different times of day, means that the child can learn by hearing the sounds over and over again
- Use a variety of toys to engage your child while you model sounds for them, e.g. say the 'p' sound every time you pop a bubble, or 'b' every time you add a block to a tower

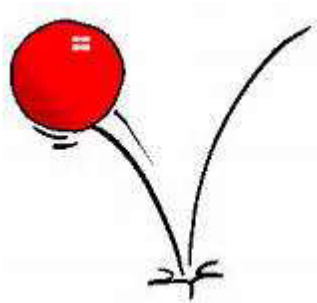


Activities for Each Sound

Ideas for the 'p' sound

- Say 'p' as you blow bubbles into the air / as you pop bubbles. Position yourself in front of your child and draw attention to your face, so that they can see your lips coming together.
- At bath time, pick up handfuls of bubbles and blow them in front of your child's face using a gentle 'p'
- Remember - 'p' is a quiet sound, so whisper it rather than saying 'puh'

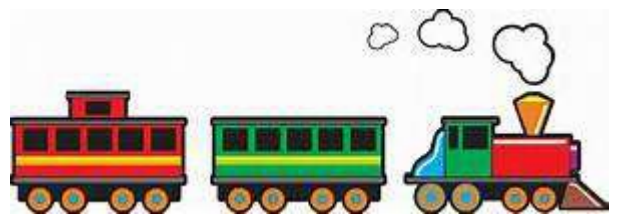
Ideas for the 'b' sound



- Bring a small ball towards your face as you say 'b', then let your child bounce/roll/throw the ball
- Babble 'b b b' on the back of your child's hand, so that they can feel how the sound is made
- Make the sound to the tune of a lullaby, e.g. replacing the words from 'Twinkle Twinkle' with 'bah bah bah'

Ideas for the 't' sound

- Exaggerate your tongue position to make it clear for the child to see where the tongue goes for 't' – do this by placing the tip of your tongue between your teeth when you make the sound.
- Say 't t t' as you pull a train across the floor or pour water into a cup
- Say 't' on the back of your child's hand so that they can feel the airflow and see your mouth/tongue and teeth
- Remember - 't' is a quiet sound, so whisper it rather than saying "tuh"



Ideas for the 'd' sound

- Exaggerate your tongue position as you did for the 't' sound – this time, encourage your child to also feel the vibrations on your throat as you say 'd'
- Say 'd' repeatedly as you bang a drum
- Say 'd' for every step as you go up stairs
- Use 'da da' as you sing a lullaby to your child, replacing the words with these sounds