

Silent Sorting

Why work on silent sorting?

Children with speech sound errors commonly have difficulties with correctly processing the sounds they have heard. Silent sorting shows that a child's processing of the sounds in a word is correct and shows fully embedded knowledge of a sound.



Rules for silent sorting

- You must have 2 'speech' sound cards which represent the sound your child is not using and the sound they are using instead, e.g. 's' and 'g'.
- The objects/pictures must be things which start with the sound your child is not using and the sound they are using instead. For example, objects starting with a 's' sock, sun, saw and objects starting with a 'g' gate, girl, game.
- Your child must complete this task in silence i.e. no talking or whispering or mouthing the word. They must make the decision by 'thinking' only.
- Before you start, you will need to place each picture down and tell your child what it is so they can think of the correct word. There should be no written word as a clue.

The Task:

- Place the sound cards in front of the child e.g. 's' and 'g'
- Mix up the objects / pictures and ask your child to choose one
- Ask your child to think about what sound it starts with and then place the item on the correct 'speech sound' card (e.g. 's' or 'g')
- Try taking turns so your child sees how you complete the task and learns from your model
- When they have finished, note how many they got right
- Go through each pile and ask your child if they are right or wrong.
- If they got it wrong but still think their answer is right you can help them by saying the word and placing it with the right sound picture or saying the word with the other sound e.g. is it a gock?
- Let them know how many they got right when they were sorting in silence and give them praise for this.

If you would like any further resources to support with this please contact your therapist.

