

Help Children Hear the Sounds in Words

Talking to children about the sounds they hear in words builds their sound awareness, which is an important skill for learning to read. Use these fun tips to draw children's attention to the sounds in words:

Play Time

If the child is putting their doll to sleep, emphasize and stretch out the 'sh' sound – e.g., “**Sshh**, the baby is sleeping. That ‘**sshh**’ sound means be quiet.” Then, stress ‘sh’ in another word – e.g., “You’re putting on the baby’s **ssshh**hoes. Listen. I hear the ‘**sshh**’ sound at the beginning of **sshh**oes. Can you hear it?”

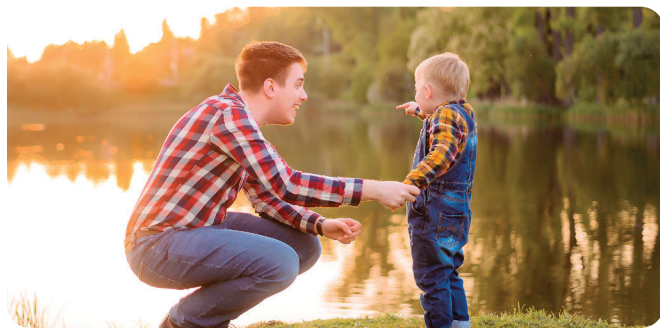


Daily Activities

If the child wants to put a **ball** in their **bag**, highlight the ‘b’ sound. Remember to stress the sound at the beginning of the word, not the letter name – e.g., “Listen to the words **b**-all and **b**-ag. **Ball** and **bag** both start with the sound ‘b’!” Then, look for other words that start with the ‘b’ sound, like **book** or **bottle**.

On the Go

While on a walk, play a rhyming game. If the child says, “There’s a red car!”, you could say, “That red **car** can go **far**! Listen – ‘**car**’ and ‘**far**’ sound the same at the end. They rhyme! Can you think of another word that rhymes with ‘car’ and ‘far’? If the child seems unsure, offer your own rhyme to keep it going!



Book Reading

When reading the book *Some Smug Slug*, emphasize the ‘sss’ sound. Remember to stress the sound rather than the letter name – e.g., “Listen. **Sssome Sssmug Ssslug**. Those words all start with the ‘sss’ sound. Can you hear it? **Sssome Sssmug Ssslug**.” Next, find other words in the book that also start with the ‘sss’ sound!

Notes