



The Communication Pyramid shows the different elements that make up speech, language and communication. Your child might have difficulties with saying sounds in words, e.g. “tar” instead of “car”. Your child will need to listen to and say the single sound they are working on, e.g. “k”, before they can use it in words (e.g. “car”) and then sentences (e.g. “I’m driving a red car”).

## Speech Skills

### Respond to what your child says

Respond to what your child says, and not how they say it.

### Repeat back clear sounds

Model the correct sounds, you don’t need to ask your child to repeat the word. E.g. Child: “It’s my pencil”, Adult: “Yes, it’s your pencil.”

### Don’t pretend to understand

Admit you don’t know what your child has said and encourage them to try again or show you. Get down to their level and maintain eye contact to show that you’re listening. E.g. With younger children blame yourself; “It’s my ears”

### Show me

Encourage your child to show you what they want in other ways if you cannot understand them. E.g. “Can you show me?” and encourage your child to use pointing, gesture/acting, drawing.

### Praise

Give specific praise when your child produces sound correctly, e.g. “That was a good ‘t’ sound.”

### Practice little and often

◇Support your child with their sounds on a daily basis for 5 minutes. Turn off background noise and make it fun! You can contact your Speech and Language Therapist to find out how.