

MODELLING CLEAR SPEECH



➤ **Correct speech sounds by modelling**

For example, when your child says 'tun' for 'sun', respond by saying, 'yes, it's a sun'. This shows our genuine interest in what the child is saying whilst also modelling a better way to say it. If we say 'it's not a tun, it's sun, say sun', it tells the child that what s/he said is wrong and makes communication a frustrating and perhaps unpleasant experience.

➤ **Lengthen words – say it slowly!**

Try holding the sound you are modelling for a count of three. This will seem strange at first but remember that when we talk, individual sounds are made very quickly. We want to give a child plenty of time to see and hear the sounds that go together to make a word.

➤ **Exaggerate sounds**

Add extra emphasis to specific sounds, eg all the 'k' sounds at the ends of words, by making them louder or stretching them out, eg 'sun' becomes 'sssun'.

➤ **Repeat**

The more often you say a word, the more opportunities your child will have to hear it correctly and to imitate it. For example, if your child says 'tun' you might respond, 'yes, sssun, it's a sssun! Big sssun!' It may also be helpful to expose your child to stories that have the same sounds you are trying to model.

➤ **Be realistic in your expectations**

It takes time for a child to learn a new sound, sometimes months. When your child makes s/he's not being lazy – he's just learning!