

WELCOME

Welcome to the Southwark Hearing Support Service (SHSS) 2021 Spring Two Newsletter. In this issue we are talking about language development and ways to support your child as they grow.

There are many ways that you can support your child and their language development as they grow. You may already use these strategies but some may be new and useful for you.

From when you first meet your little one you will be chatting and singing to them. These are the best way for them to experience language/speech first hand. They can learn from you and imitate your words and songs. Simple daily tasks, like changing a nappy, can be made into a singsong or a chance to expose your baby to vocabulary. For example, narrating what you are doing, naming the things you are using.

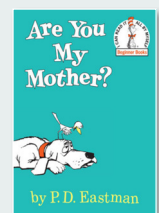
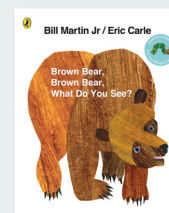
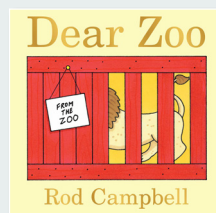
Nursery rhymes are important for language acquisition and help with speech development. They help children develop auditory skills such as discriminating between sounds and developing the ear for the music of words. Rhymes like these help kids articulate words, modulate voices (practicing pitch, volume, and inflection) and enunciate clearly by saying them repeatedly. They also provide another opportunity to increase vocabulary.

The App Baby Beats provides a great way to use music to help develop early listening skills and develop the hearing centres in the brain that are responsible for language and learning.



BabyBeats™

It is never too early to start sharing stories with your little ones. Reading stories and looking at books together builds on developing language and understanding further, by introducing your baby to words that don't naturally crop up in everyday life. Repetition helps your baby to build their language skills, so look for stories that use the same phrases again and again, or just read your baby's favourite stories to him often. Here are some good examples of some stories that have repetition and rhythm.



To keep them interested whilst sharing a book, vary the pitch of your voice, or use different voices for different characters. Even a book without words provides an opportunity to develop language. What can you see on the page? What colour is it? Is it big or small? Does it make a sound? Make the sound with the child.

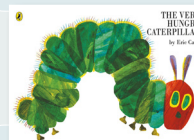
As your little one gets older you can extend your reading by sharing activities using a favourite book. This again helps to extend and develop their vocabulary and understanding of the world. For example The Hungry Caterpillar is a great book for providing activities.

FOODS

- Types of food (fruit, vegetables, etc)
- Where does it come from? How does it grow?
- Tasting activities

CRAFT IDEAS

Making caterpillars, finger painting, painting using fruits and vegetables.



DESCRIBING

What does the caterpillar look like?
How big is he?
Describe the Butterfly's wings.

LETTER SOUNDS FOR FRUITS/FOOD

COUNTING

- Fruits/Colours
- Days of the week

THE DAYS OF THE WEEK

LIFE CYCLES

Looking at other life cycles.
For example, Frogs.

There are lots of great ideas out there for a variety of books. A quick Google and you will soon find ideas for books that are favourites in your house.



Protect your
friends and family

**COVID SYMPTOMS?
GET TESTED NOW.**

**nhs/coronavirus
OR CALL 119**

NHS
Test and Trace

Southwark
Council
southwark.gov.uk

There are a few books out there that have positive deaf characters in that can be nice to share with your child. Here are a few of our favourites.



Going on a walk is a great way for your little one to learn about the world they live in. This could be anywhere that you can get to. It could be round the block, up and down your road, to a local park, or even around your own home. What can you see? Describe things that your little one can see. Taking photos is a great way to record your walks. If you can print them out, you can make them into a scrapbook. Look at them together and see what your little one can remember. Can they name the things you saw? Can they describe them? A tree, for example, might be big (huge), it will be different colours depending on the time of year. You can touch the tree trunk, what does that feel like? Does it feel the same as the leaves on the tree?

You could also collect things on your walk that you could put into a sensory basket so that you can revisit these and describe them. Sensory baskets can contain a variety of things. You don't need to go out and buy lots of sensory toys. Spoons are great; you may have a wooden one, a metal one and a plastic one, also some in different sizes. These can be compared and described in a variety of ways; appearance, size, colour, texture.

Role-play is a great way of developing language. As well as vocabulary and language, role-play develops toddler's communication skills as they communicate with each other in a safe environment. Having a tea party together, pretending to be a nurse or doctor, there are many role-play activities you can do together. This can be shared with siblings and will also be expanded as they start nursery and/or school.

Meal times are also a great time to develop those language skills. Chatting about what is being eaten. What is the food called? What does it look like? What is the texture of the food? What does it smell like? What does it taste like? Do they like it? Why/why not?

As your child moves onto school a lot of these things you will have been doing with them at home will continue. Reading will be something that is now changing between you and your child as they will be beginning to read their own books. You can hear your child read now as well as reading to them. Ask questions about what you have just read together. For example; What's happened? Characters feelings, compare to their own, how would they feel if it was them, etc. This helps with their comprehension skills and also their empathy and understanding of others feelings. As they move up through primary school you can adapt your conversations about their reading to the books they are reading. You may not hear them read as you did when they were little but encouraging them to tell you about what they are reading will help them think about the books and content. Remind them that it is ok to ask if they do not know a word or understand the meaning of it. You can make it into an activity where you use a dictionary to find the word and it's meaning. Can they put the word into a different sentence.

Having conversations each day are so important. Asking them how their day was, telling them about your day. Have a chat about the things you are going to do/see the next day or at the weekend. Again asking them about their feelings is a great way of expanding their emotional vocabulary. How did they feel at school today? Maybe you could tell them about how you felt when something happened to you that day or even things you may see on the TV.

A REMINDER OF HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH US

NAME	JOB TITLE	PHONE	EMAIL
ARTHUR CEFAl	Acting Team Lead Qualified Teacher of the Deaf	07540 152 935	Arthur.Cefai@southwark.gov.uk
DANUTA PIWKO	Qualified Teacher of the Deaf	07710 921 741	Danuta.Piwko@southwark.gov.uk
LOTTIE TAYLOR	Qualified Teacher of the Deaf	07725 623 079	Lottie.Taylor@southwark.gov.uk
KAREN ROWLEY	SHSA, Early Years Professional	07725 623 076	Karen.Rowley@southwark.gov.uk
EMMA FORD	Qualified Teacher of the Deaf	07395 372558	Emma.Ford@southwark.gov.uk

SOUTHWARK HEARING SUPPORT SERVICE (SHSS)

SPRING TWO NEWSLETTER 2021

HERE ARE SOME LINKS AROUND THIS TOPIC THAT YOU MAY FIND USEFUL.

- [Facebook page from speech and language therapy](#)
-> LINK HERE <-
- [Tiny happy people – advice videos for parents and carers](#)
-> LINK HERE <-
- [Southwark Children and Family Centres – Chattertime videos, songs and stories and craft ideas](#)
-> LINK HERE <-
- [Advice videos: Supporting Communication with Deaf Babies and Toddlers](#)
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