

## **ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE ARTICULATION**

A teacher or parent can provide a good speech environment by pronouncing words correctly and distinctly. Use a natural rhythm and melody, but be careful not to talk too fast.

Wait to correct the child in conversation until the child has learned to master the sound in words (in therapy or home practice). You can model correct placement, practice the sound by itself or in words etc., but it does no good to correct them, if they have not been taught to do it correctly. A desire to improve is best enhanced by praising their successes and minimizing their failures. It is good to be understanding, but not overly sympathetic.

Provide one or more times a day when the child can talk to you and feel good about talking. The following activities can be used during these times:

### **ARTICULATION ACTIVITIES FOR K thru 2nd Grade**

Source:<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/concord/classes/support/spced/slpwebpa/homeacts/artick-2.htm>

- ❖ Take your child on a treasure hunt for things that start with the sound he is working on. Practice saying each word as you find things. As your child's articulation improves, you can look for things that have the sound in them somewhere, (not necessarily 'starting' with the sound.)
- ❖ While in the car, look for things that start with the sound. Have a contest to see who can find the most. If you find something, have your child put it in a sentence and vice versa.
- ❖ Play a board game or card game. For each turn have your child say a word with their sound in it. You can have them put it in a sentence too. Feel free to say words yourself to provide a good model of how to say the sound. (The game is just something fun to do while you're working on articulation.)
- ❖ Play "I Spy" (you or your child picks something with her sound in it and the other one tries to figure out what it is by asking questions) or "Going to Grandma's House" (play with 2 or more people, start by saying, "I'm going to Grandma's house and I'm bringing....", name something with your child's sound in it; the next person needs to remember what you said and then add another item with the sound in it and so on. See how many you can remember.)
- ❖ Play a listening game where you say a word and ask your child if it started with his sound. For each correct response you can have your child jump, raise his hand,

take a step, or whatever you choose. For example: say, "You're listening for the 'r' sound. Tell me 'yes' if you hear it and 'no' if you don't." Then start saying words like: rock, walk, race, run, will, won, etc. It's ideal to include words that start with the sound that your child substitutes for the correct one, (i.e. if your child says 'r' like 'w' include words that start with 'w'.) You can get a list of words from his SLP.

- ❖ Weather permitting: play catch or basketball with your child. For each throw or basket say a word with her sound in it. (Again, as your child improves you can have her put the words into sentences.)
- ❖ Read a book with pictures to your child. You can read it to him/her emphasizing the sounds that he/she misarticulates. Have your child describe what's happening in the pictures to you as you read or when you've finished. He should be reminded to think about his sound while he's speaking. You can also have him tell you what happens from the pictures of the book you've already read. This is an activity for children who are almost to the conversational level of speech improvement, but not quite.
- ❖ Select a time (dinner, in the car) when you ask your child to spend 10-15 minutes concentrating on making her sound while she describes her day or a favorite movie or book. This is an activity for children who are more advanced in their speech improvement.

The following activities were listed on the following web site:

<http://www.mankato.msus.edu/dept/comdis/kuster2/therapy/articrx.html>

- ❖ Tic-tac- toe
- ❖ Putting the cards around a darkened room and then finding them with flashlight (really a big hit with the preschool set)
- ❖ Putting paper clips on each card and then pulling them off the table with a magnet on a fishing pole
- ❖ Simple lotto games
- ❖ Simple board games like "Connect Four" or "Candy Land" can be used where you require a correct word before they can take a turn.
- ❖ Coloring target sound pictures

- ❖ Blocks, puzzle pieces, Legos, bean bag, or Nerf ball throws can be given for each correct word they say.
- ❖ Play monkeys from "Barrel of Monkeys". They get one for each correct sound they produce.
- ❖ Put cards in a bag. Have client close eyes, pick a card, and name it.
- ❖ Bowling: clip cards on clothespins and line up (like bowling pins). Have client roll ball and name the card he/she knocks down.
- ❖ Hopping: place cards face down on floor (or under shaped cut-out construction paper). Have client name the card he/she hops next to.
- ❖ Mail cards: use a toy mailbox and have client name each card as he/she mails it.
- ❖ Games: use any sporty games (e.g., basketball, football, baseball). After each turn, have client pick a card and name it. If named correctly, gets another turn.
- ❖ Create a road made of cards (words with their sounds) on a piece of poster board. Child names the card as he/she drives a toy car over each word..
- ❖ For literature-based articulation practice, choose a book you like and think the children will enjoy. Go through the book and make a list of all the words containing the target sounds. Then make cards for these words. Read and talk about the story. For older students, as they read each page, let them find the words that have their sound. Also, we use these vocabulary cards to play games, (Memory, Go Fish, a board game, or any activity you can think of).
- ❖ Computer programs can be used as the basis for articulation practice (Once the child can produce the sound in words). For older students, who can read, you can use programs with repetitive vocabulary (e.g. Oregon Trail or SuperMunchers from The Learning Co. and Carmen San Diego, USA by Broderbund). They can work on correct pronunciation of the sounds they are working on. Examples of non reader programs are Carmen San Diego Jr. or Detective by Broderbund. They can name the pictures with their sounds.
- ❖ \*Computer graphic programs like Kid Pix, Kid Works 2 or Blocks in Motion with the Land, Sea and Space module can be used to create a picture that contains the child's sound. You can write a story about the picture, using these words. The child reads the story back to you and shares it with friends, family and teachers.