



Activities to Facilitate Speech Development

1. In the classroom

Most people are familiar with at least some version of the alphabet game where you take turns going through the alphabet thinking of an animal or a food that starts with each letter of the alphabet. When targeting speech sounds you can play a similar game, only instead of thinking of animals that start with the letter k you might think of as many words as you can that start with the /k/ sound like “cat,” “cookie” and “kite.” You take turns going back and forth until someone is stumped and can’t think of another word.

2. Chalk

Create your own hopscotch game with speech words, make your own life size board game with speech words, or simply draw and color speech words in the playground. Let your kids have a great time expressing their creativity on the concrete canvas while practicing the sounds they need work on at the same time.

3. Picture Treasure Hunt

Go through the playground or kinder room and take pictures of as many things as you can that start with your targeted sound. Whoever takes the most pictures wins. Make a fun book of the pictures that were taken to review later.

4. Playdough fun

Draw a word out of a hat, then shape your playdough into that word. Have the other players guess what you have created. For extra points you could have them say the word in a sentence.

5. In the playground

Whatever your target sound is you can usually find a way to target it at the playground. For example on the slide you could practice the /p/ sound by giving a stuffed animal a “push” down the slide. You could practice the /b/ sound by giving a “big” push, or going down the “big” slide. You could practice the /m/ or /w/ sound by saying, “watch me slide,” “watch Sarah slide,” or “my turn.” You may even try rolling marbles down the slide into a bowl. You could have them ask for “more marbles” to roll down the slide. You can practice the /s/ sound by saying “ssssss” all the way down the slide and then ending the word when you hit the bottom.

6. In the sand

Bury objects or laminated picture cards for them to find. When they find the objects or speech cards have them say the word as they put them in their bucket. The goal is to find the most pictures.

7. Paper ball basketball

Draw/write each practice word on a piece of paper. Write the number of syllables in the word below the word. Then crumple each piece of paper into a ball. Have the child choose a ball, open it up, say the word and then crumple it back up and toss the paper ball into a rubbish bin. If the word was a three-syllable word and they make the bin they get three points. If it was a single syllable word they only get one point.

8. Torch Hide and Seek

Tape practice words around the room then turn off the lights. Hand the child a torch and then go find the words. Have them say each word as they find them.

9. Books

Choose books that are interesting to the kids and help them find pictures or words that start with the sounds they are working on. You may have them just listen as you say the words clearly for them to hear, or you may have them try saying the words as well.