

Friday, 01 March 2019

## Allied Health Professions



Healthy child, healthy future  
Speech and language development for parents 1

Does my child speak clearly?

Learning to speak clearly can take a very long time. A child needs to learn to practice using different sounds and then learn to combine them into words and sentences.

Remember that speaking is a very individual skill. Your child may not seem at the same time and in the same way as his friends or siblings.

Many children cannot pronounce all speech sounds until around the age of seven.

For more information, see the section on speech.

**General advice**

- It is not helpful to correct your child's speech by telling him he is saying it wrong or by getting him to say it again.
- This way, he can listen to how an adult says the sounds, etc., you will have set him know he was 'incorrect'.
- Listen and respond to what your child is trying to say and not how he is saying it.
- Encourage your child to play with other children.
- Encourage your child to draw attention to your child's speech by commenting on it or pointing to it.
- Give your child the opportunity to mix and play with children of his own age.
- Encourage your child not to touch or eat anything or before doing the day.

Produced by the Public Health Agency Board on behalf of Northern Ireland Regional Office for Children and Young People

This factsheet describes how parents can help their child speak more clearly.

## Details

Format

A4 factsheet

Target group

Parents

## Downloads

Attachment	Size
<a href="#">Handout Does my child speak clearly 02_19.pdf</a>	444 KB

## Tags

- [speech and language](#)
- [factsheet](#)

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