

**Helping children use target sounds in their talking**

1. Firstly ensure the child can produce the target sound on it’s own. Discuss with a Speech and Language Therapist if this is not yet possible for the child, and go to the ‘input modelling’ handout for ideas.
2. Add a vowel sound before or after the target sound (e.g. k-ar, k-ee, k-oo… ar-k, ee-k…)
3. Move on to practicing the sound in very short CV and VC words (e.g. coo, car, cow, key, ark, eek)
4. When able to do this, try slightly longer words focussing on the sound at the beginning of the words (king, coat, cat…) and at the end of words (book, sock, duck…)
5. Then practice words in short phrases. You may need to just add one word initially e.g. ‘red car’, ‘birthday cake’. You also may need to focus on sounds at the beginning of the words first, before focussing on sounds at the end or middle of words as well.
6. When able to use the sound well in phrases, practice in longer sentences e.g. making up stories using some target words, describing an object/picture that contains the target sound.

Some children may move through the stages quickly, but others may take much longer. If the child is struggling, speak with a speech and language therapist for advice.

Throughout the process, build in lots of listening practice e.g. finding words beginning with the target sound, sorting words into 2 different sounds, and identifying correct/incorrect adult productions (see phonological awareness pack for more ideas)