

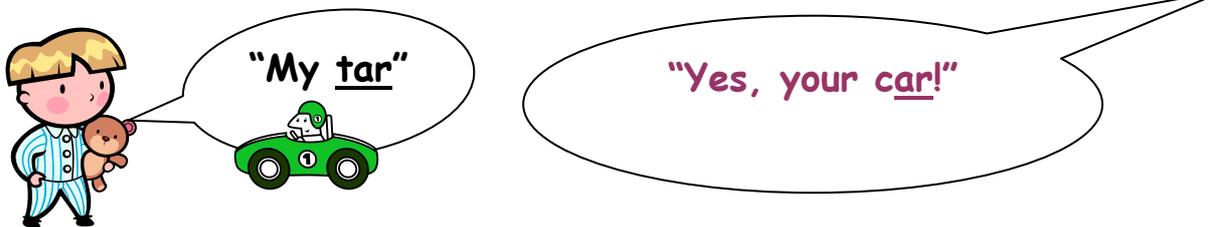
## CHILDREN'S SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICE

### Help your child's speech sounds develop

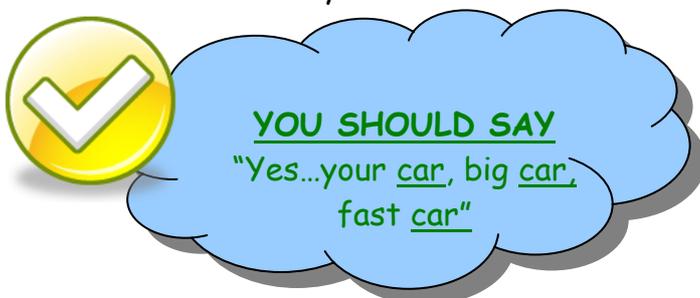
Some children find it difficult to know which sounds to use in a word and this may make their speech hard to understand.

Your child may make mix sounds up as their speech is developing, they are not being lazy; this is a normal part of their speech sound development. However, some children continue to have difficulty using the correct sounds, these children may require Speech and Language Therapy.

- 1) If your child says words that are not clear **don't correct them**. Instead 'model' the word back to them using the right speech sounds (focus on what your child says, not how they say it)



- 2) **Don't ask your child to repeat words if they make an error** just repeat it back to them correctly.



- 3) Encourage your child to use gestures and actions to help you understand what they are saying or to show you what they want. Don't pretend to understand what your child has said.

- 4) When repeating back the words to your child don't over exaggerate the sounds and the way you speak to them.
- 5) React to what your child says and not how they say it - work out what they mean and respond without worrying about how the sounds are made
- 6) Your child may be able to say the sound on its own but not in words e.g. your child may be able to say 'sss' but still say 'dock' for sock.
- 7) Remember, it's hard to make sounds clearly with a dummy or bottle in your mouth, keep dummies for sleep time and make sure to take them out when your child is trying to talk

Look at [www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk) for more information on speech sound development and extra talking tips

For more information visit [www.alderhey.nhs.uk](http://www.alderhey.nhs.uk) or talk to your Speech and Language Therapist

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