

Speech sound checklist

Use this checklist to help you reflect on how you help children with unclear speech- either as a practitioner or as a parent.

It will become clear to you which of these strategies comes quite naturally to you- and others which might need a little more practice. Note the impact of these strategies on the child's confidence and self-esteem! Remember to focus on what the child is saying and not how they are saying it!

Did you...	No	sometimes	always	Comments....
Get down to the child's level and make eye contact with them?				
Give them your full attention when they are talking?				
Repeat back what the child was saying, emphasizing the correct sounds? (if you <i>knew</i> what they were trying to say)				
Repeat back correctly the <i>part of the sentence that you did understand</i> ? (so they realise they have successfully communicated <i>part</i> of their message)				
Provide opportunities for the child to talk about the 'here and now' to provide a context for their speech? (to give you clues to work out what they are saying)				
Ask the child to show you or tell you another way?				
Encourage the child to use gestures or signs alongside their speech?				
Use a home school diary- to give extra context for their conversations?				
Admit you don't understand?				
Discussed referral for specialist support or make the referral, with parental permission?				

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