

Speech and Sound Awareness // Age 0 - 2

Listening is the key skill to support speech and sound awareness at this age, so also take a look at the 'Attention and Listening' handouts available on the Communication Carousel.

Babbling

Sit the child on your lap, facing you and make babbling noises e.g. ba ba ba; da da da. Encourage the child to copy. If the child makes a noise to you, say it back, this often encourages more sound making. It's also good practise for 'conversations' later



"Boo!"

Hide your face in your hands, uncover it and say "boo!" Encourage the child to copy you. You can also play 'boo' hiding behind a cloth or towel, , towel, when playing in play houses, etc.

Make appropriate **noises** when playing with toy animals, cars, trains etc. Encourage the child to join in and copy you, e.g. 'bang' 'broom broom' 'moo'... See 'Sound Awareness – Age 2-3' for more ideas.

Musical instruments

Play with musical instruments together, making a variety of different sounds with each instrument – e.g. quiet and loud sounds, long and short sounds. Take turns to play with the instrument. Copy the child when they play, and see if they copy you back. You can also play 'guess the sound'. Put two instruments behind your back, then play just one. Bring the instruments back in front of you, and see if the child reaches for the instrument you played.

