

To help your child speak clearly...

- If your child makes a mistake when he/she is talking, say it back to him/her correctly. He/she **does not** have to repeat it. What is important is that he/she hears the correct way of saying it.
- Emphasize the sounds in your own speech that your child has difficulty with when you model the sentence back to him/her.
- If your child does attempt to model the word after you- praise for effort, not perfection!
- You can make comments about your own speech. “Hey, did you hear that? I made a /sss/ sound to start that word – **snake**.”
- When reading books together, emphasize the sounds your child has difficulty with and perhaps point to the word and identify the letter that corresponds to that sound. For example, “fish- do you see the /f/ it says /fff/ for ‘fish’. Etc.”

To see if your child is using the sounds he/she should be at his/her age- please refer to the following document.

<http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/talk-box-speech-sounds-checklist.pdf>

It is always a good idea to have your child’s hearing checked to make sure that it is not affecting the way he/she is speaking. You can search for an Audiologist near you by going to the following link:

<https://www.osla.on.ca/search/custom.asp?id=5677>

If you are concerned with your child’s hearing or if he/she has had a lot of ear infections, it would also be a good idea to speak to your family doctor about getting a referral to see an Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist (ENT).

For further suggestions for speech and language development, please consider following the link below and then select the appropriate handout depending on the age of your child:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/talk-box-a-parent-s-guide-to-creating-language-rich-environments-preschool>