Speech & Language activities for 4 – 6 year olds

<https://www.mom365.com/preschool/development/5-speech-and-language-exercises-for-4-6-year-olds>

<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/activities-to-Encourage-speech-and-Language-Development/>

<https://www.speechbuddy.com/blog/speech-therapist/speech-therapy-exercises-for-children/> (free downloads)

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/sheryljcooper/speech-development-and-language-activities/>

<https://www.speechtherapytalk.com/games-for-4-year-olds.html>

Most recommended:

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-parents/>

Language development underpins all learning and personal development. Even if your child struggles to articulate what they want to say, it is really important that they hear lots of language every day. You can achieve this through commenting on what you and your child are doing together. You should also use as many open questions as you can to encourage more than yes or no answers.

**What can be done to improve articulation (pronunciation and talking)?**

* **Play:** For the young child, engage in play where you model and use lots of different sounds while playing (e.g. saying “ch ch ch” as the train passes by, “baa” goes the sheep).
* **Talk** to your child often throughout the day to model correct pronunciation of words.
* **Reduce background noise:** Turn off background noise in the home (e.g. television, radio, music) when engaging with your child to minimise distractions.
* **Look** at the child when they are speaking and encourage them to look at you so that they can imitate how to say words or sounds correctly.
* **Read** to the child.
* **Listen and respond** to the child’s message (not the exact pronunciation of the words).
* **Repeat** the child’s sentences if their speech is not clear (e.g. child: “Dat my deen tar.” adult: “Yes, that’s your green car.”). By repeating what your child has said you are producing a good language model and you are also showing that you have listened to what the child has said.
* **Show:** Ask the child to show you what they are talking about if you don’t understand what they have said. Ask for ONE repetition and try to have a guess. Don’t be afraid of saying you can’t understand what the child has said.

**What activities can help improve articulation (pronunciation and talking)?**

* **Naming** items together when completing tasks such as looking at a book, in the car, looking outside, while playing and during shopping.
* **Copying** facial expressions in the mirror (e.g. smiling, kissing, licking lips).
* **Playing** something together that the child really enjoys and throughout the game model words with which they are having difficulty.
* **Modeling** and using different sounds during interactions and in play (e.g. “s” is the snake sound, “sh” the baby is sleeping).
* **Listening to** and identifying sounds in words (e.g. “shoe” starts with the “sh” sound).
* **Correcting:** If a child says a word incorrectly, model the correct production back to them but there is no need to make them say it again (e.g. child: “Look at the tat”. adult: “Yes, it’s a *c*at” and then continue with the conversation). This helps to provide a subtle, positive correction by modelling the correct response rather than highlighting that the child has said it incorrectly.