

## Why are we 'playing' with the Ling Sounds

Presenting the six Ling sounds is a quick and easy way to see how well the auditory system is working.

The 6 sounds are used to determine:

- The child's ability to detect speech sounds.
- The ability to identify speech sounds.
- If amplification is at it's best.
- To observe how hearing is used.
- To teach the skill of listening to a sound and responding in a certain way.

The sounds are:

/ar/ /oo/ /ee/ /sh/ /ss/ /mm/

Each of these sounds has a different pitch. They move from the very low /mm/ to the very high /ss/.

Detection:

Use various stimulus activities to present the sounds so that the child will learn to detect them. It may be better to start with the lower sounds /ar/ /or/ /oo/ /mm/. The child is not being asked to repeat the sound or to discriminate which sound it is. All that is expected is a response to the presented sound.

Ideas for stimulus activities:

- The child places a ring on a stick at the presentation of a sound and is then given another ring and asked to listen again.
- Place marbles in a bowl or container of water.
- Place a marble on a marble slide.
- Place men in a boat or a bus or car.
- Puzzle pieces into a puzzle.

It is a good idea to act as a role model by holding the object being used to your ear as the child holds one to his/ her ear. As the child presents his object hand him/her the object you have been holding and pick up another one. If the child has difficulties understanding the task model it yourself or better still with another adult.

### Identification

Once the child can detect the sounds presented they will learn to identify them. Identification can be through a pictorial form or by asking the child to repeat the sounds presented.

Ideas for identification activities:

- Use the pictures provided below. The child could point to the sound they hear. Start off with identifying between 2 or 3 sounds by using the larger – whole page pictures. Say the sound several times pointing to the relevant picture. Say the sound and encourage the child to point to the correct picture. Wait a few seconds and help him/ her to point to the correct picture. When the child is ready the sheet with several sounds on it can be presented to see if the child can point to the correct one.
- Toys could be used to represent the sounds being presented.
- Ask the child to repeat the sounds they heard while using a stimulus response activity as described earlier.

Listening at a distance:

Once the child can detect the sound presented at close range, move further away to practice listening to the sound at a distance.

Response to the 6 sounds is by:

- Detection at a close range. (12 cm, 50 cm)
- Detection at a distance. (1, 2, 3 metres)
- Identification at a close range. (12 cm, 50 cm)
- Identification at distance. (1, 2, 3 metres)

**Presenting the Sounds:**

- Present the sounds with lip reading, gesture and voice at first. Use as much expression as possible. As the child begins to know the sounds and becomes more confident, use less visual clues.
- When presenting the sounds you should vary the order and the timing and repeat some of them.
- Try not to distort the sounds by using a loud voice.
- Try to use expression and not use a flat monotone voice.

**Any listening activity, including the Ling sounds should be stimulating and, above all, FUN.**

**Make the 6 sounds check part of your daily routine, but make it short and vary the activities to ensure interest is maintained.**



oo



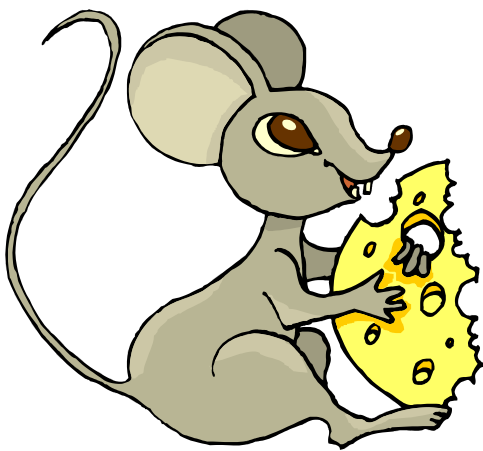
ar



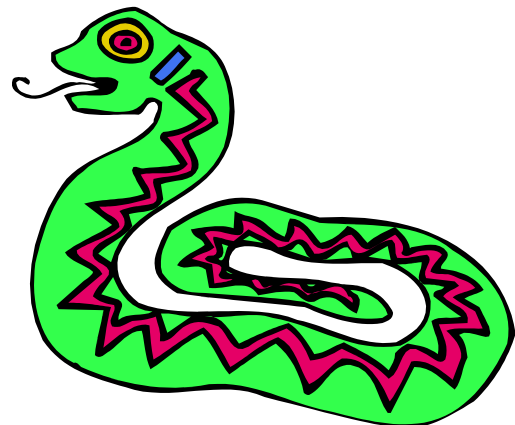
mm



sh



ee



ss