

# ARTICULATION OF SPEECH SOUNDS: STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ARTICULATION

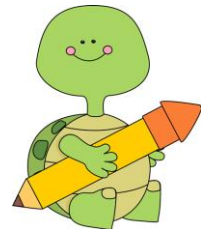
If your child mispronounces words, use the following techniques to support his/her speech skills. These strategies are ordered from those which provide the greatest amount of support to those which provide the least amount of support. Always try to provide your child with as little support as possible and still allow him or her to say the target word successfully. If your child cannot say the target word by the third attempt, move on.

Please consider **developmental norms** for speech sound development prior to initiating articulation strategies, as some speech sound errors may be age appropriate based on your child's age.

1. Model and stress the correct pronunciation.
2. Give your child a choice (e.g. "Do you want 'soup' or 'thoop'?"). Help your child see that a difference in pronunciation can affect the meaning (e.g. If your child says 'think' for 'sink', ask your child, "Do you mean 'think' like what you do with your mind? Or do you mean 'sink', the thing we wash dishes in?").
3. Repeat back your child's error and wait for a correction. (e.g. "Thoop?")
4. Repeat back your child's sentence up until the error and allow your child to complete the sentence correctly. (e.g. "You want some ... (what?)")
5. Repeat back the entire sentence and wait for a correction. (e.g. "You want some thoop?")
6. Give your child a questioning look (?) and wait for self-correction.



Remember to offer plenty of **praise** for your child's every attempt!



For children who are difficult to understand, you can reduce the frustration by trying one or more of the following suggestions:

1. Ask your child to show you what he or she means.
2. Ask your child to tell you in another way.
3. Tell your child what words you did understand.
4. Apologize and explain that you don't understand right now but that you will try again later.

