



# Listen for English Sounds

Listen and look often to grow familiar with the sounds of English.

## Helps Your Child Grow



### Phonological Awareness

Repeated exposure to spoken English helps your child become familiar with its sound patterns and begin comparing differences between words.

## Steps

- When children first encounter English, it may sound like a stream of unfamiliar sounds rather than meaningful language. Becoming familiar with its sound patterns lays a foundation for later listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Share English picture books, nursery rhymes, or children's programs without rushing to explain every meaning. With repeated listening, your child can become familiar with the rhythm and sounds and notice that they form stories and songs.
- Once English sounds feel more familiar, add a short listening game that asks your child to compare words.
- Notice the first sound: Say "banana, book, bird, apple." Ask which word begins with a different sound.
- Notice the ending: Say "man, can, milk." Ask which two words share the same ending sound.

## Tips

- Choose English picture books, songs, and programs that already interest your child.
- During a listening game, say each word slowly and clearly so the sounds are easier to compare.
- If your child does not hear the difference yet, simply model it and try the game again another day. Familiarity grows through repeated listening.

## Observations

- ☐ Says whether two words sound similar or different
- ☐ Remembers the words you say and compares how they sound