

Start Well Early Years Communication and Language Development Service

Tip of the Month – October 2020

Clapping sounds out with your child helps to develop early skills for reading.

Parents with babies:

- Clap your hands, and make banging noises, this encourages your baby to move their body, and look for the noise.
- Talk as you clap to your baby, this will help them understand social interactions, such as copying and sharing.

Parents with toddlers:

- When you are clapping and banging, give your child the opportunity to copy you. Wait and let them respond. Give them a noisy toy to use.

Parents with young children:

- Break down words. This will help your child understand them and encourage them to listen.
- Clap out sounds of a word This will help your child to understand each individual sound.



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Activities to try at home

Parents with babies:

- Clap gently, holding your baby's hand. Sing a nursery rhyme such as **"Pat cake, pat a cake"**.
- Introduce rhythm to your baby by clapping your hands to different beats (3 slow claps, 3 fast claps, 3 slow claps).

Parents with toddlers:

- Clap the sounds of your toddler's name together.
- Use objects such as pans, pots, and spoons for your toddler to explore making sounds.

Parents with young children:

- Encourage your child to get active whilst counting out the sounds. Jump up and down, pat head, hop on one leg etc.
- Pick a word from your child's favourite story to clap out the sounds i.e. Gruffalo requires 3 claps.

Want to find out more about your child's learning and development in the early years?

Download:



<https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/0778-What-to-Expect-When-2018.pdf>

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