



Auditory feedback loop

Have you ever heard yourself talk and in the middle of your sentence, realise you have said the wrong word and instantly correct yourself? This is an example of adults using the auditory feedback loop.

The auditory feedback loop is a 3 step process. It involves:

1. the ability to hear a word (or sound)
2. process it
3. repeat it back

What does this look like in babies? When babies start experimenting with their own vocalisations, they are not always aware of the sounds they are making. We need to make them aware of these sounds through the auditory feedback loop. For example, if your baby says, 'da da', stop, look at your child with excitement and say 'da da!'. This helps your baby hear the sounds they have just produced, process it, and often they will repeat it back again. Similarly, you can also start the feedback loop by eliciting a sound you want your baby or child to repeat

Mother- mama

Baby: ma da

Mother – ma ma....

Baby – ma ma

This eventually turns into a turn taking game as your baby is fascinated with this new sound they are able to say, hear and imitate. Eventually your baby will work out that these sounds have meaning and are important for communication.

As your child develops more language and can produce more sounds and words, you can model the correct pronunciation of the word to them. E.g. child: doo, parent: shoe, child: shoe. Your child will eventually learn how to self correct their own speech errors by using the auditory feedback loop.

