



## What are Learning to Listen sounds?

'Learning to Listen sounds' (LLS) are sounds that children can associate to an object or emotion. Examples include

- Animal sounds e.g. quack quack, moo, meeeooww, woof woof, cockle doodle doo!
- Vehicle sounds e.g. beep beep, brm brm, ahhhh, p p p for boat
- Expressions of emotion/feelings/actions e.g. ouch, uh-oh, yay!, grrrr, waaahh, chop chop, scrub scrub

LLS's are important because they grab a child's attention due to their interesting and expressive tone. They also encourage the development of your child's listening, receptive and expressive language, social, speech and cognitive skills. In fact, LLS's are a precursor to desired outcomes of understanding and use of spoken language.

But why is this? LLS's cover a range of speech frequencies and accentuates differences between these sounds. They highlight the differences in duration (long vs. short sounds - meeeooww vs. quack quack), pitch (high vs. low pitch- a mouse vs. elephants stomping) and intensity (loud vs. quiet sounds – a sneaky snake vs. a loud bus). It establishes that 'sound has meaning' as a LLS are always used in association with a toy/song/picture e.g. twinkle twinkle with star.

LLS's also encourage expressive language as they mirror babble or vocal play e.g. ba ba for sheep, ahhhhh for aeroplane. This helps develop their oro-motor skills. LLS's also promote social development as they encourages turn taking and joint attention. You and the child are able to have a back and forth exchange while both focusing on an object of interest.

Learning to listen sounds also promote listening through using the 'auditory feedback loop'. They listen to a production of a LLS and then repeat it. Older kids are able self correct their errors according to what they hear. E.g. child says 'Boo for moo'. The mother says 'listen, MOOO'. The child self corrects and says 'moo' the second time (if able and developmentally appropriate)

Try to incorporate LLS in your every day life. When you are making dinner, some LLS you could use are stir stir stir, chop chop chop, wash wash wash. When in the car (using an FM), you can point out all the different vehicles you see e.g. choo choo, here comes the train, broom broom that is a big semi truck, look it's a bus! Beep beep!. Oh no there is a fire, look at the fire truck, nee naw nee naw! What are some other places, routines in which you can use LLS? The list is endless!