

Toy talk



Main purpose: To develop blending and segmenting of sounds in words

Introduce to the children a soft toy that can only speak in 'toy-talk'.
It could be a teddy.

Ask the toy a question, like, "What would teddy like for tea today?"
Pretend the toy is whispering the answer in your ear.
Then say the answer with the sounds split up, like "ch-ee-se".

Look puzzled and then say the word straight afterwards- "cheese!".

Ask the toy again *What else would you like?* Be careful to think of items with names of only single syllables (e.g. fish, cake, pie, soup).

Use different scenarios: *What does the toy like to do in the playground?* (hop, skip, jump, run, etc.).

As the children become more confident, make some mistakes - blend 'skim' for 'skip', for example, and ask them to catch you out by giving the correct blend.

Encourage the children to ask the toy questions with yes/no answers (e.g. *Can you sing?* Y-e-s/N-o). Or ask the toy the colour of his bike, his bedroom walls, his jumper, etc. and the toy will answer r-e-d, b-l-ue, g-r-ee-n, m-au-ve.