

## **Bolton Start Well**

### **Early Years Communication and Language Development Service**

#### **Tip of the Month for Practitioners – October 2024**

### **Talk about letters and sounds**

Encourage play with sounds and words to help children learn to hear the separate sounds and words in spoken language.

Point out that sounds match different letters of the alphabet.

Awareness of the different sounds in words and how they are represented by different letters, is an important skill for children to develop to be effective readers and writers.

Try making up funny rhymes to draw the child's attention to the way words sound. E.g., when addressing the child, have fun with their name and say something like, "Time to tidy up, Carly Barley!" or "Look who's here, Simon Pieman."

Reference: Hulme, C Bowyer-Crane, C., Carroll, J.M., Duff, F.J., & Snowling, M.J (2012). The causal role of phoneme awareness and letter –sounds knowledge in learning to read. Combining intervention studies with mediation analysis. *Psychological Science*, 3(6), 572-577.

### **Songs of the Month**

'Pop Goes the Weasel' and 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star'.

Additional information can be found on the Bolton Start Well website: [Learning and Development – Bolton Start Well](#)

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