BUILD EARLY COMMUNICATION THROUGH SOUNDS

MOO, BEEP, POP!

Before children begin using words, they learn to communicate by listening, exploring sounds, and interacting with others. Animal noises, environmental sounds, and playful exclamations make communication fun while helping children connect sounds with meaning.





WHAT SOUNDS COUNT?

- **Animal sounds**: Moo, woof, meow.
- **Environmental sounds**: Ding-dong, splash, tick-tock.
- **Vehicle sounds**: Vroom, beep-beep, choo-choo.
- **Exclamations**: Uh-oh, wow, yay, oops.
- **Play sounds**: Pop, crash, boing.

Babbling, squealing, and other vocalizations also support early sound development.

- **Build understanding**: Connect sounds with objects and experiences.
- **Encourage imitation**: Explore listening and vocal production.
- **Support interaction**: Practice turn-taking and responding.
- **Grow language**: Create opportunities to introduce words and phrases.

WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?





HOW DOES IT HELP DEVELOP LANGUAGE?

Early sounds help children explore their voices, understand meaning, express themselves, and interact with others. They can provide opportunities to develop vocabulary and early conversational skills, but children do not need to master sound imitation before learning words.



HOW TO SUPPORT @ HOME

- **Follow their interests**: Model “vroom” with cars or “pop” with bubbles.
- **Model sounds naturally**: Pair sounds with actions and objects.
- **Pause and wait**: Give your child time to respond.
- **Celebrate attempts**: Accept approximations without correcting.
- **Expand language**: Turn “moo” into “Big cow!”
- **Use daily routines**: Add sounds to books, meals, and play.
- **Accept all communication**: Encourage gestures, signs, sounds, words, and AAC.