



Process of
Articulation
Therapy

The Process of Articulation Therapy

Target Sound

The Process of Articulation Therapy goes through the steps of teaching the target sound (the sound you want to teach) in isolation, syllables, words, sentences, stories, conversation and finally generalizing the target sound in all contexts of language.

1 Isolation

To practice the target sound in “isolation” just say the sound all by itself without adding a vowel. For example, if you are practicing the /t/ sound say /t/, /t/, /t/ multiple times in a row. When the target sound is said accurately in isolation move on to syllables.

If you are unable to get an accurate production of the target sound in isolation you may want to reference a “Speech Sound Development” chart to make sure the sound is developmentally appropriate. If it appears the target sound is in fact delayed and you still cannot get an accurate production of the sound contact a Speech-Language Pathologist for some guidance.

2 Syllables

To practice the target sound in “syllables” simply add a vowel to the target sound. To practice a sound in the initial position of syllables add a vowel after the target sound like “to”. To practice a sound in the medial position of syllables add a vowel before and after the target sound like “otu”. To practice a sound in the final position of syllables add a vowel before the target sound like “it”. Be sure to practice the target sound with all the different vowel variations. When the target sound is mastered in syllables move on to words.

3 Words

To practice the target sound at the word level start by determining which position of the word (initial, medial or final) you want to target first. Begin with the sound position that the target sound was produced the most accurately in at the syllable level. For example let’s say the target sound was produced the most accurately in the initial sound position. In this case you would then practice the target sound in the initial position of words until the target sound is said correctly at least 80% of the time. Once the target sound is said correctly in the initial position of words move on to practicing the target sound in the initial position of sentences. You will want to practice this sound in the initial position of words, sentences and stories before you switch sound positions and start practicing the target sound in another sound position like the final or medial sound positions.

4 Sentences

To practice the target sound in sentences start with a “rotating sentence” or a carrier phrase. In a rotating sentence or a carrier phrase the sentence stays the same while only the target word changes. For example, your sentence might read, “The teacher taught about the toy.” or “The teacher taught about the toad.” Then you rotate all your target words through the sentence. This is an especially great way to practice sentences for young children who can’t read yet. They are able to memorize the sentence, or use visual cues to help them read it aloud. You are also able to maximize the production of your target sound when you use a sentence with two or three target words in it.

Once rotating sentences are mastered unique sentences that change every time offer even more opportunities to practice the target sound in the specified sound position. When the target sound is produced correctly at least 80% of the time move on to stories.

5 Stories

To practice the target sound in stories select a story with the target sound appearing frequently. Read the story through multiple times until the target sound is produced accurately at least 80% of the time.

Once the target sound is produced accurately while reading aloud move on to retelling the story in their own words. If the target sound is produced correctly while retelling a story and has been mastered in all the sound positions (initial, medial and final) of words, sentences and stories move on to conversation.

6 Conversation

To practice the target sound in conversation takes some creativity. You may want to try to center conversation topics around some of the target words they have mastered or you may just want to set a specified time to focus on the correct production of the target sound during conversation. Be sure to correct any inaccurate productions of the target sound during the conversation.

7 Generalization

Once the sound has been mastered in words, sentences, stories and in conversation you want to watch for generalization across all the contexts of language. If there seems to be difficulty in generalizing the target sound go back and practice the words, sentences and stories again until the sound is produced correctly in daily speech.