**Helping with speech sounds**

**User guide:**

Time for sounds – sound awareness – nursery level.

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| **The**  **intervention** | Time for sounds – sound awareness – nursery level. |
| **Where to find it?**    **How much**  **does it cost?** | <https://www.blacksheeppress.co.uk/product/phonics-acquisition/>  The cost of the resourceis £60.00 + VAT. |
| **What does it target?** | Phonological awareness skills. |
| **Who is it for?** | Ideal for nursery aged children and older children who require a significantly differentiated curriculum. It targets the development of general listening skills, along with the concepts required to understand and progress in phonics. Designed to support the development of phonological skills in children who have been identified as having:   * delayed attention and listening skills. * speech sound errors. * and / or as not developing phonological awareness skills at the expected rate.     Sessions are intended for a group of 4- 6 children. The activities may be adapted, and group sizes may also be varied. It can also be used on an individual, small group or whole class basis. |
| **What is it?** | The program aims to develop children’s early sound awareness skills. Focus areas include:   * same/different. * beginning/middle/end. * loud/quiet. * early rhyme.   You can download a sample here: <https://www.blacksheeppress.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Sample-PA3_Time4Sounds_Nursery-2.pdf> |
| **How does it work?** | There are 10 sessions in this program. Each session has with a range of activities, with a session plan to guide the adult. 30-45 minutes is the recommended time per session, but length of sessions can be tailored depending on group size and the attention and listening skills of the child/ren.  The use of a visual schedule throughout activities is used to support children’s attention and listening.  The resource contains visual prompts to use within each session e.g.  Diagram  Description automatically generated  Diagram  Description automatically generated  Diagram  Description automatically generated  This programme is not designed to replace the targeted phonic programe used within your setting. |
| **Who can deliver it?** | A teaching assistant or teacher. |
| **How long does it take?** | There are 10 sessions, with a guide of 30-45 minutes. In the pilot study, sessions were carried out twice a week by a learning support assistant – with liaison with class teacher and speech and language therapist. |
| **What resources do I need?** | The programme provides session plans and all resources required to run the intervention. |
| **How do I show progress?** | You could use a phonological awareness screening tool, such as <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/media-library/documents/resource-area-documents/spld-phonological-awareness-pack-pdf-6mb.pdf> (Screening tool from page 93 onwards.) |
| **Top tips** | * Try to carry out these activities in as distraction free environment as possible. Reduce background noise and visual distractions. * Keep groups small so children don’t have to wait too long for their turn. * Lots of repetition will be required. * Use short, clear instructions. * Model activities so children can see what to do first. * Don’t make sessions too long to support attention levels. |
| **Evidence**  **base** | <https://www.blacksheeppress.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PA4_Research.pdf> details findings from the pilot study. |