

## **Promoting Early Talkers**

To help promote the basics of speech, your child must first learn the formation of their mouth muscles. Here's some ways you can assist in their development:

- Look in the mirror! – Make silly faces and sounds and encourage your child to look at their mouth shape in the mirror.



- Try to gain eye contact and with your child when speaking and singing so that they can see the shape of your mouth, getting down to their level where possible.
- Use a straw – drinking through the straw will help strengthen muscles.



- Balloons – encourage children to blow into a balloon



- Limit your child's dummy where possible, as this hinders their speech
- Sing to your child (Nursery rhymes/silly rhyming songs)
- Share a story with your child (we have story sacks in the setting that can be borrowed)
- Use simple sentences
- Extend your child's vocabulary by adding a new word, if your child says "big car", repeat back "big red car."
- Model correct language: if a child says something incorrectly, repeat back correct word.
- Give your child time to answer. It takes a child 8-10 seconds to process what you have said.

**Encourage your children's development of early language through everyday fun and interesting activities which reflect children's interests and enable them to become confident and skilled communicators.**

