

How to Choose Learning to Listen Sounds

Now you have your Learning to Listen Sounds toys and sounds and are excited to use them, but which sounds should you start with and how many? Here is a handout to help answer those questions! These are suggestions, but each child's listening and spoken language journey is unique, so they can be adjusted.

Follow the hierarchy of Teaching Learning to Listen Sounds and scaffold. As you check comprehension for one sound, input for another.

There is no rule for how many to start with, but you can introduce 2 Learning to Listen Sounds and continue to add more as the child progresses.

1. Duration

sound length

First, choose two sounds that contrast in duration:

- "ahhhh" and "woof woof"
- "mooo" and "buh buh buh buh"
- "ahhhh" and "oink oink"

You can introduce a mixed duration sound:

- "brrrrr beep beep"

2. Intensity

sound loudness

Next, choose two sounds that contrast in intensity:

- "baaa" and "p p p p"
- "mooo" and "p p p p"
- "ahhhh" and "chchchch"

You can introduce a mixed intensity sound:

- "shhhhh, wake up!"

3. Pitch

high vs. low sound

Next, choose two sounds that contrast in pitch:

- "mooo" and "ee ee ee"
- "baaaa" and "ee ee ee"
- "choo choo" and "buh buh buh buh"

You can introduce a mixed pitch sound:

- "wee ooo wee ooo"

4. Vowels

a, e, i, o, u

You can also choose vowel sounds that contrast in frequency:

- "ee ee ee" and "ahhhh"
- "ee ee ee" and "choo choo"
- "woof woof" and "baaa"

*as the child's listening skills progress, the vowel contrast between two sounds can become less and less