

Listen and Fink



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What is this game for?

Children with Speech pronunciation difficulties often have difficulties with listening for the subtle differences between sounds. Before we can start teaching them how to make the sound, we need to help them to tune in to the sound, recognize where it occurs in words, and notice how it differs from similar sounds.

Words that differ only by one sound are called "minimal pairs" and these are the minimal pairs that contrast "f" and "th"

What to do

Cut out the pictures along the heavy lines, so you have pairs of pictures.

1. Listening for differences:

Place two pictures in front of the child. Say one of the words – can he listen carefully and point to the one you say?

You may need to exaggerate the sounds at the beginnings of the words until he can "tune in"

2. Making differences:

Tell the child it is now your turn. Put a pair of pictures in front of you. Ask the child to say the word for YOU to point to the right picture. This will help him to realize that he is saying them both the same, and needs to make a distinction if he is to be understood.

Extension activities

We have included here the minimal pairs for "f" and "th" but you can also use the pictures "Happy Endings", "Starting Off" and in the rhyming games for more variation.