



## **Top Tips to help children with unclear speech**

- Encourage speech but don't put pressure on your child. Try to avoid telling them to say things e.g. 'Say 'cat' say 'juice' and so on.
- Encourage your child to make choices e.g. 'do you want milk or juice?' This will give you the context so you will have a better understanding of what your child is trying to say.
- Get face to face with your child so you can see and listen to what your child is saying
- Don't 'correct' your child's speech by saying 'no...it's not a tar it's a car'. Instead, just model the correct response, 'yes it's a car'.
- Try not to ask your child to say the words again, ask them instead to point to it, mime/sign it draw or write it if they are able to.
- Develop your child's confidence and self-esteem by praising any speech attempts
- Try to wean your baby/toddler off their dummy as soon as you can
- Have some quiet time with your child everyday - turn electronics off e.g. TV, Radio or iPads. It's ok to let your child watch TV, Video or DVD for short periods of time but please remember interaction with people is the key to your child's development.