Articulation: Making Speech Sounds more Obvious to your Child

❑ Correct your child's speech errors by saying the word properly yourself
  - When your child says "tun" for "sun", you say, "Yes! It is a sun." This approach shows you are interested in what your child is saying and gives him the right way to say the word.
  - If we say, "It's not a tun, it's a sun. Say sun.", it tells your child that what he said was wrong and it makes communication a frustrating experience.

❑ Say it slowly!
  - Remember that when we talk, individual words are said very quickly. We want to give your child plenty of time to see and hear all the sounds that go together to make a word.

❑ Exaggerate sounds
  - Add extra emphasis to specific sounds (e.g., all "k" sounds or all sounds at the end of words (e.g., "caT", "mooN"). You can do this by adding a gesture (e.g., "k" – point under your chin near your throat) or facial expression when you say a specific sound (e.g., raising your eyebrows) or by stretching the sounds out (e.g., "ssssssssun").

❑ Say it louder!
  - Make key words louder to attract your child's interest and attention (e.g., "Yes, it is a SUN. The SUN is hot!")

❑ Repeat
  - The more often you say a word, the more chances your child will have to hear it and copy it (e.g., "Yes, sun. It's a sun! A big, yellow sun."). It is also helpful to expose your child to lots of words that have the same sound (e.g., sun, sit, snake, and sock).

❑ Break longer words into smaller parts
  - Break longer words into syllables. It may help to tap your hand on the table for each part of the word as you do it (e.g., telephone – te·le·phone; dinosaur – di·no·saur; macaroni – ma·ca·ro·ni