

# MINIMAL PAIRS

## Aim

This is a listening task that teaches the child to discriminate between 2 similar sounding words. It is important that the child is able to hear the difference between sounds in order to be able to produce them accurately in their own speech.

## Target

For the child to be able to discriminate between 2 sounds as part of a minimal pair.

## Resources

- Minimal pairs pictures – these can be used printed out or displayed on a screen.
- Building blocks/animals/game pieces/bean bags/hula hoops, depending on the activity chosen

## HOW TO COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY:

Minimal pairs rhyme and differ by just one sound, e.g. pea and bee, gate and date, core and door, shoe and Sue.

1. Pick a pair of the pictures (minimal pairs), e.g. car/tar.
2. Place the pictures in front of the child, tell them what each of the words/pictures are and ask them to listen very carefully.
3. Now, say one of the words (e.g. 'car') and ask your child to point or place an item, (e.g. brick or counter) on the picture that they hear.
4. Continue doing this, saying each of the words in a random order so that the child doesn't learn the pattern e.g. car, car, tar, car, tar, tar, tar, car, tar, car.
5. If your child puts a brick on to the wrong picture, model the word again and place it on to the correct picture.

### Any Questions?

Please contact the speech and language therapy service on:

0300 555 5965



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## ACTIVITY IDEAS:

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**Brick Towers:** Place two pictures on the table and give your child some bricks. Name one of the pictures. The child puts a brick on the picture they hear. How tall will the tower get.....?

**Post boxes:** Cut slots in two shoe boxes to make post boxes and cut rectangles to be the letters to post. Stick a picture on each. The child listens and posts a letter in the right box.

**Skittles:** Set up two skittles and stick a picture on each one. The child listens while you say the word and rolls their ball at the one they think you said.

**Lily Pads and Frogs:** Cut out cardboard discs to look like lily-pads and place the pictures on them. Give your child a toy frog and ask them to make their frog jump on the correct lily-pad by listening to you as you say the word.

**Run to the corner:** Place pictures in opposite corners of the room. Encourage your child to listen while you say one of the words. They must race to the word they hear.

**Stepping-Stones:** Cut out some paper or cardboard discs the size of dinner plates. Lay them on the floor and stick the pictures on them. The child has to listen to hear how to cross the river by jumping on the word you say.

**Jump in the circle:** Place a hula-hoop on the floor or draw a circle with chalk on the ground. Place a picture in each circle and ask the child to jump in the circle that has the word you say.

**Bean bags in buckets:** Stick pictures on buckets. The child has to listen to find out which bucket to throw their bean bag into.

**Turn-taking game:** Use the pictures alongside a game, for example pop up pirate – place a sword on each of the pictures, name one of the pictures, then the child can take a turn at the game.

**Hide a penny:** Ask the child to close their eyes and hide a penny under one of the pictures, then tell your child which picture to look under so they find the coin.