



USING YOUR CHIPMUNK PUPPET

Some children are such **FAST TALKERS!**

Having them SLOW DOWN can create a world of difference in their clarity, their fluency and their sentence construction.

The first step in having a child slow their speaking rate is **developing their awareness** of **slow speech versus fast speech**.

Fast speech can be modelled using the delightful chipmunk. When the chipmunk talks, comment about how fast she talks – and how tricky it is to understand her. Ask the chipmunk to **SLOW DOWN** and praise her lots when she does so. In time, over sessions, she can become the chipmunk who has learnt to talk more slowly!

It's a great idea at this stage of **developing awareness** to contrast the chipmunk's fast talking with the slow, cool and collected speech of Gail the Snail or Tommy the Turtle (*see snail puppet or turtle puppet – available through Puppets for Learning*).

You can label fast talking as Chipmunk Talk and slow talking as Snail Talk or Turtle Talk. This makes sense to kids and allows the focus to be removed from their speech initially. It works a treat!

The second step in having a child listen to the chipmunk and give her feedback. Children love telling the chipmunk when she is getting too fast!

The **next step** is to have children slow their own speech by practising Snail Talk or Turtle Talk in a speaking task. This might be while saying a rhyme (such as Jack and Jill) or while looking and talking about a favourite book. Praise the child when they are using their great Snail/Turtle talking. If they slip up and get too fast – say something like “Whoops, I heard some Chipmunk talking. That was hard to understand...Try again with Snail/Turtle Talk.”

Let children use the chipmunk puppet in play, but tell them that the chipmunk is only allowed to play if she practises her slow talking.

Finally, use the concepts of Snail/Turtle Talk and Chipmunk Talk throughout the day, giving feedback mainly when the child is speaking slowly and only occasionally when they are too fast and using Chipmunk Talk. As the child gets better at using their slower speech rate, you can have the Chipmunk develop slower speech too.

Tell the children that they are doing **SO WELL** with their Snail/Turtle Talk and that they are helping the Chipmunk speak slowly too.

Subscribe to our blog for latest tips on using/making/learning about puppets.

Go to the blog at
www.puppetsforlearning.com.au

Or find us on social media

 **@puppetsforlearning**

 **Puppets for Learning**

 <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/handuppapuppet/puppets-for-learning/>