



MRS. MCDONOUGH'S MUSIC NOTES

Vocal and Speech Development

October 2017

Learning to speak is a huge accomplishment for a child, and is the product of lots of listening and practice! Speech requires coordination between the brain, the mouth (lips, tongue, and teeth), and the breath (lungs and diaphragm). It's no wonder that it takes years to develop clear, confident speech! Here are some of the ways we practice vocal and speech development in music class:

- **Listening** - Focusing on specific sounds teaches children to discriminate, remember, and imitate those sounds.
- **Vocal Play** - Playing with sounds helps children explore their vocal range and increases phonemic awareness. An example of vocal play is imitating animals noises or sirens.
- **Nursery Rhymes and Poems** - Speech has a rhythm to it, and nursery rhymes and poems help children to develop rhythmic awareness.
- **Singing** - Singing puts together listening, patterns of language, rhythm, speech sounds, and memory. Children who may be too self-conscious to speak out loud by themselves may feel comfortable singing as part of a group.