



Friendly sounds (consonant clusters)



s clusters



l clusters



r clusters



Friendly sounds (consonant clusters) are consonants that go together in words.

s clusters e.g., *smile, snake, spoon, star, spring, best*

l clusters e.g., *fly, play, blue, slide, glass, melt*

r clusters e.g., *fridge, present, bright, grass, crayon*

Children usually learn to say many friendly sounds by 4 years of age.

Children sometimes leave out one of the sounds in a cluster as they are learning.

They might say: *mile* instead of *smile*

side instead of *slide*

tick instead of *trick*

bet instead of *best*



Model friendly sounds when you are talking together.

Child: I want to go on the *side*.

You: You want to go on the *slide*? Let's go on the *slide*.

Praise your child for trying to say friendly sounds.

It's OK if your child doesn't say the sounds after you.



Talk about **fixing up friendly sounds** in words, and give your child an example in your own talking.

You: Let's *pay* with cars. Oops! I said *pay* and I meant *play*!

I need to fix it up. Let's try to put our **pl** sound in *play*.

Don't practice mistakes. It is OK to wait until you see a speech pathologist.



Stan Snake

Some words start with two or three consonant sounds, known as consonant clusters.

s clusters: *sm, sn, sl, sw, sp, st, sk, spr, scr, spl*

Easier words: *snow, sky, star, stop, slip*

Harder words: *spout, smartest, spray, splash, spring*

Sing with sounds: Sing a nursery rhyme

Incy wincy *spider* climbed up the water *spout*,
Down came the rain and washed the *spider* out.
Out came the sunshine, and dried up all the rain,
So incy wincy *spider* climbed up the *spout* again.

Twinkle twinkle little *star*,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the *sky*.

Play with sounds: Use s clusters in your play together



Play on the *swing* and the *slide* at the park.



Sort toys or containers that are big and *small*.
This lid is too *small* –
let's *swap* it.



Draw a *snowman* or a *snail* with a *scarf* and a big *smile*.

Read with sounds: Visit the library and borrow some books

Grandpa's Slippers by Joy Watson and Wendy Hodder

The Smartest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle



Flynn Glider

Some words start with two or three consonant sounds, known as consonant clusters.

I clusters: *fl, sl, pl, bl, cl, gl, spl*

Easier words: *play, fly, plane, clap, floor*

Harder words: *flower, blanket, gloves, flute, blocks*

Sing with sounds: Sing a nursery rhyme

Shoo *fly*, don't bother me,
Shoo *fly*, don't bother me,
Shoo *fly*, don't bother me,
'Coz I don't want your company.

Two little hands go *clap, clap, clap*,
Two little feet go tap, tap, tap.
Two little eyes are open wide,
One little head goes side to side.

Play with sounds: Use I clusters in your play together



Pretend to be a *plane*.
Put your arms out wide,
flying in the *clouds*.
Make a paper *plane*.



Plant some *flowers* in a pot. Make sure you wear gardening *gloves*!



Make an indoor fort with *blankets* for walls, and pillows on the *floor*.

Read with sounds: Visit the library and borrow some books

Clementine's Bath by Annie White

Blue Whale Blues by Peter Carnavas

Blown Away by Rob Biddulph



Trish Tree Frog

Some words start with two or three consonant sounds, known as consonant clusters.

r clusters: fr, thr, br, pr, dr, tr, cr, gr, scr, spr

Easier words: tree, drum, bread, free, grass

Harder words: three, crocodile, groceries, traffic, frog

Sing with sounds: Sing a nursery rhyme

Five little monkeys swinging from a *tree*,
Teasing Mr *Crocodile*, "you can't catch me!"
Here comes Mr *Crocodile*, quiet as can be,
And snatched one monkey out of that tree!

Galumph went the little *green frog* one day,
Galumph went the little *green frog*.
Galumph went the little *green frog* one day,
But we all know *frogs* go, "la de dah de dah".

Play with sounds: Use r clusters in your play together



Go shopping for *groceries* together. Will you buy some *fruit*, *bread*, or *pretzels*?



Play dress-ups. Will you be a *dragon*, a *princess* with a *crown*, or a *frog*?



Drive toy *trucks*, *trains*, or a *tractor*. Uh-oh, it's a *traffic* jam!

Read with sounds: Visit the library and borrow some books

Crocodile Beat by Gail Jorgensen

Jungle Drums by Graeme Base

My Friend Ernest by Emma Allen