



## Short sounds



**p**



**b**



**t**



**d**



**k**



**g**



Short sounds are made with a short puff of air.

The air is stopped by the lips for **p** and **b**, and by the tongue for **t**, **d**, **k**, and **g**.

Children usually learn to say short sounds by 3 years of age.



Children sometimes confuse *quiet* and *noisy* short sounds in words.

They might say: *bee* instead of *pea*, and  
*door* instead of *tore*.

Children sometimes replace *back* and *front* short sounds in words.

They might say: *tea* instead of *key*, and  
*dough* instead of *go*.



**Model short sounds** when you are talking together.

Child: Let's *dough* in the *tar*.

You: Yes, let's *go* in the *car*. Off we *go*.

Praise your child for trying to say short sounds.

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



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

You: There's a *bee* on the floor. Oops! I said *bee* and I meant *pea*!  
I need to fix it up. Let's try a quiet sound for *pea*.

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



p

## Penny Possum

The **p** sound is a puff of air. Put your lips together and feel the 'pop' of air on your hand.

It is a short, quiet sound.

**Easier words:** *puppy, pop, pat, pig, party*

**Harder words:** *present, pebble, please, plate, pineapple*

## Sing with sounds: Sing a nursery rhyme

*Pat*-a-cake, *pat*-a-cake, baker's man,  
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.  
*Pat* it, and roll it, and mark it with a 'B',  
And *put* it in the oven for baby and me!

*Polly put* the kettle on,  
*Polly put* the kettle on  
*Polly put* the kettle on,  
We'll all have tea!

## Play with sounds: Use p words in your play together



*Pop* some bubbles or  
bubble wrap.  
*Pop, pop, pop!*



Have a *picnic* (real or  
pretend) and *pack* some  
*peaches, pears,* or  
*pineapple.*



*Paint* a *picture* with red  
*paint,* blue *paint,* or *pink*  
and *purple!*

## Read with sounds: Visit the library and borrow some books

*Purple Sock, Pink Sock* by Jonathan Allen  
*If You Give a Pig a Pancake* by Laura Joffe Numeroff  
*Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me* by Eric Carle



**b**

## Benny Bandicoot

The **b** sound is a puff of air.

Put your lips together and feel them bounce open.

It is a short, noisy sound.

**Easier words:** *baby, baa, bee, bubble, bear*

**Harder words:** *blow, blue, bandicoot, breakfast, bounce*

## Sing with sounds: Sing a nursery rhyme

Here is the *beehive*, where are the *bees*?  
Hiding away where nobody sees.  
Watch and you'll see them come out of the hive,  
One, two, three, four, five.

*Baa baa black* sheep,  
Have you any wool?  
Yes sir, yes sir,  
Three *bags* full.

## Play with sounds: Use **b** words in your play together



Play with a *baby* doll or a *bear*. Give it a *bath* and a *bottle*, and put it to *bed*.



*Bounce* a *ball*.  
*Bounce, bounce, bounce!*



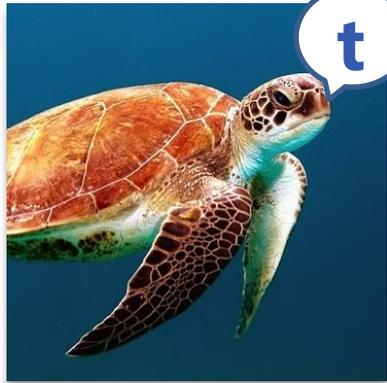
Have a *bubble bath*, or *blow* some *bubbles*.  
Catch the *big bubbles!*

## Read with sounds: Visit the library and borrow some books

*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Eric Carle

*The Baby BeeBee Bird* by Diane Redfield Massie

*Whose Baby am I?* by John Butler



t

## Tony Turtle

The **t** sound is made with your tongue tip on the ridge behind your top teeth.  
It is a short, quiet sound.

**Easier words:** *teddy, teeth, tea, tin, tip*

**Harder words:** *tick, toothpaste, toast, tiger, take*

## Sing with sounds: Sing a nursery rhyme

I'm a little *teapot*, short and stout,  
Here is my handle, here is my spout.  
When I get all steamed up, then I shout,  
*Tip* me over, pour me out.

*Teddy* bear, *teddy* bear,  
*Turn* around.  
*Teddy* bear, *teddy* bear,  
*Touch* the ground.

## Play with sounds: Use **t** words in your play together



*Take* it in *turns* to stack blocks on a *tower*.  
Careful it doesn't *topple* over!



Brush your *teeth*, use *toothpaste*, and don't forget to *turn* the *tap* on and off.



Have a *teddy* bear's picnic with *toast* and *tea* at the *table*.

## Read with sounds: Visit the library and borrow some books

*Tails* by Matthew Van Fleet

*In the Tall, Tall Grass* by Denise Fleming

*The Tiger Who Came to Tea* by Judith Kerr



d

## Dave Dolphin

The **d** sound is made with your tongue tip on the ridge behind your top teeth.

It is a short, noisy sound.

**Easier words:** *do, door, dot, day, dinner*

**Harder words:** *dog, dock, doctor, duck, dinosaur*

## Sing with sounds: Sing a nursery rhyme

Hey *diddle diddle*, the cat and the fiddle,  
The cow jumped over the moon,  
The little *dog* laughed to see such fun,  
And the *dish* ran away with the spoon.

Hickory *dickory dock*,  
The mouse ran up the clock.  
The clock struck one, the mouse ran *down*,  
Hickory *dickory dock*.

## Play with sounds: Use **d** words in your play together



After *dinner* (real or when you are playing), wash the *dirty dishes*. All *done*!



Play with a *doll* or *dinosaur*. Feed it some *dinner* or pretend to visit the *doctor*.



Play a game of *duck, duck, goose*!

## Read with sounds: Visit the library and borrow some books

*Duck at the Door* by Jackie Urbanovic

*The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins

*How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* by Jane Yolen



k

## Kimmy Koala

The **k** sound (also spelled **c**) is made with your tongue up at the back of your mouth.

It is a short, quiet sound.

**Easier words:** *cake, cook, king, cow, kick*

**Harder words:** *cat, kookaburra, kitten, kite, koala*

## Sing with sounds: Sing a nursery rhyme

Pat-a-*cake*, pat-a-*cake*, Baker's man,  
Bake me a *cake* as fast as you *can*.  
Pat it, and roll it, and mark it with a 'B'  
And put it in the oven for baby and me!

Hey diddle diddle, the *cat* and the fiddle,  
The *cow* jumped over the moon,  
The little dog laughed to see such fun,  
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

## Play with sounds: Use k words in your play together



Play outside with a ball.  
*Catch* it, bounce it, roll it,  
and *kick* it.



Pretend to be a  
*kookaburra*: *koo koo koo*,  
*kar kar!*



*Cook* a *cake*, and *cut* it  
into slices. Will you put  
*candles* on top?

## Read with sounds: Visit the library and borrow some books

*Cows Can't Fly* by David Milgram

*Kiss the Cow!* by Phillis Root

*Come Down, Cat!* by Sonya Hartnett



g

## Gus Goanna

The **g** sound is made with your tongue up at the back of your mouth.

It is a short, noisy sound.

**Easier words:** *go, goo, going, gong, guess*

**Harder words:** *good, grow, guitar, get, goodnight*

## Sing with sounds: Sing a nursery rhyme

The ants *go* marching one-by-one,  
The little one stopped to suck on his thumb,  
And they all went marching,  
Home to *get* out of the rain.

We're *going* on a bear hunt,  
We're *going* to catch a big one!  
I'm not scared.  
What a beautiful day!

## Play with sounds: Use **g** words in your play together



Put your toys to bed.  
*Goodnight* teddy!  
*Goodnight* dolly!



Have a running race, or a  
race with toys cars.  
Ready, set, *go*!



Choose your favourite  
*game*. Who will *go* first?  
Play duck, duck, *goose*!

## Read with sounds: Visit the library and borrow some books

*Goodnight Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann

*We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen

*Wombat Stew* by Marcia K. Vaughn and Pamela Lofts