



K Sound Word List

The back of the tongue humps up and touches the soft palate at the back of the mouth, then releases. The tongue tip stays down and relaxed.



SOUND

/k/

TYPICAL AGE

By age 3-4

TYPE

Voiceless Velar stop

PRACTICE TIP

If the child says "tea" for "key," they are fronting. Try having them lie on their back - gravity pulls the tongue back and helps the /k/ pop out.

Initial Position (108 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.

1 Syllable

52 words

cat	cage	carve	colt	cut
cup	calf	case	cone	keep
key	call	cash	cook	kick
cow	calm	catch	cool	kid
car	camp	cave	cork	kind
cake	can	coal	cost	kiss
kite	cane	coast	couch	kids
king	cap	code	count	cart
corn	cape	coil	cub	
coat	card	coin	cuff	
comb	care	cold	curl	

2 Syllables

48 words

cookie	cactus	cattle	couple	kayak
candy	camel	cocoon	courage	kennel
carrot	candle	collar	cousin	kernel
kitchen	canoe	color	cover	ketchup
cabbage	canyon	copper	cowboy	kettle
kitten	captain	copy	cozy	kitty
castle	carpet	costume	cuddle	kiwi
coffee	carriage	cottage	curtain	cooking
cabin	carton	cotton	cushion	
cable	cartoon	country	custard	



3 Syllables

6 words



camera

calendar

coconut



kangaroo

koala

coyote



4 Syllables

2 words



caterpillar

koala bear

High-frequency initial words

Everyday words rather than picture-card words - which is why most lists leave them out. A child already says these hundreds of times a day, so they carry more carryover value than any noun above. Target them in conversation, not in drill.

could, coming, came, called, kids, cut, cold, catch, calling, careful, kept, caught, count, calls, keeping, keeps, color, carrying, kicked, cooking, carried, kissed, counting, kicking, cooked, colors, cuts, kisses, carries, counted



Medial Position (88 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.

2 Syllables

74 words

monkey

napkin

duckling

peacock

tricky

cookie

taco

echo

pickle

uncle

jacket

doctor

falcon

picnic

walking

bucket

turkey

freckle

pinky

weekend

pocket

vacuum

hiccup

rocking

yucky

rocket

acorn

hockey

rocky

thank you

chicken

anchor

locker

secret

ice cream

sticker

ankle

lucky

shaky

breakfast

bacon

backpack

marker

sneaker

baking

blanket

basket

market

soccer

biking

pumpkin

biscuit

mascot

sprinkler

cooking

raccoon

broken

nickel

stocking

checkers

second

buckle

nickname

tacos

raincoat

package

cupcake

pancake

ticket

looking

necklace

donkey

parking

tickle

3 Syllables

13 words

bicycle

bakery

mechanic

porcupine

apricot

acrobat

balcony

mosquito

recover

alarm clock

encourage

popcorn ball

vacation

4 Syllables

1 words

helicopter



High-frequency medial words

Everyday words rather than picture-card words - which is why most lists leave them out. A child already says these hundreds of times a day, so they carry more carryover value than any noun above. Target them in conversation, not in drill.

okay, because, talking, looking, actually, thinking, working, exactly, taking, making, become, taken, asking, speaking, across, quickly, broken, became, drinking, weekend, breaking, knocking, becomes, cooking, kicking, fixing, fixes

Final Position (107 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.

1 Syllable

100 words

book	pink	desk	oak	steak
duck	cheek	dock	park	stork
sock	brick	elk	peak	stuck
cake	chalk	flake	peek	take
milk	bank	flock	pick	talk
lake	beak	fork	poke	tank
rock	black	hawk	quack	thick
bike	break	honk	rack	think
snake	brook	hook	rake	tick
truck	buck	ink	rink	trick
clock	chick	joke	sack	trunk
block	chunk	junk	shake	wake
stick	click	kick	silk	week
back	cloak	knock	sink	wink
look	cluck	lick	skunk	yolk
walk	cook	lock	snack	link
work	crack	luck	sneak	leak
shark	creek	make	spark	pack
drink	dark	mask	stack	hike
thank	deck	neck	stalk	check

2 Syllables

7 words

backpack	mistake	magic	music
milkshake	sidewalk	plastic	

High-frequency final words

Everyday words rather than picture-card words - which is why most lists leave them out. A child already says these hundreds of times a day, so they carry more carryover value than any noun above. Target them in conversation, not in drill.

think, take, make, thank, took, drink, week, break, broke, spoke, weak, woke, thick, drank



Generalization

Word lists get a sound into a child's mouth. Generalization is what gets it into their life. These are activities where the target words come up on their own, so nobody has to be talked into practicing.

Play-based ideas for young children

Toy kitchen cooking

Cook pretend food together. Let them stir, taste and serve, and name everything you pick up as you go.

Words that come up: cook, cup, cake, cookie, carrot, corn, cut, hot, pancake, taco, milk, cold, kitchen, coffee

Car ramp and crash

Race toy cars down a ramp into a stack of blocks. Rebuild and repeat - the repetition is the point.

Words that come up: car, crash, go, back, knock, quick, stuck, kick, truck, block, pick, take, look, again

Cardboard box house

Turn a box into a house or cave for small toys. Cut a door, color it in, decide who lives there.

Words that come up: box, cut, color, cave, key, knock, come in, look, inside, hide, dark, make, take, cozy

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Categories

Name things in a category until someone is stuck. Kitchens, clothes, countries, colors and animals with claws all start you in /k/.

Cooking show

Narrate making a snack, step by step, like a TV chef. Cook, cup, cut, mix, bake and "okay" are constant.

Keep or toss

Go through an imaginary box of stuff and decide what to keep. "Keep," "could," "cool" and "okay" run through the whole game.