

SK Blend Word List

Hold a long /s/ at the front of the mouth, then jump the back of the tongue up to the soft palate for /k/.

SOUND

/sk/

TYPICAL AGE

By age 5-7

TYPE

Voiceless Fricative + stop cluster

PRACTICE TIP

SK is a long distance for the tongue to travel - front to back. Slow it way down at first: sssss...kate.

SK is practiced here at the beginning and end of words; true medial SK clusters are rare.

Initial Position (18 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.

1 Syllable

13 words

sky	skip	skunk	skim	school
skate	ski	sketch	skit	
skin	skirt	skid	scoop	

2 Syllables

3 words

skateboard	skillet	skillful
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3 Syllables

2 words

skydiver	skyscraper
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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.

scared

Final Position (9 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.

1 Syllable

9 words

desk	task	disk	tusk	husk
mask	ask	dusk	whisk	

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

Skipping and hopping

Skip across the room, skip a rope, skip a stone.

Words that come up: skip, skipping, skate, sky, skin, again, more, go, fast, my turn, jump, stop, count, wow

Sky watching

Look at the sky and name what you see.

Words that come up: sky, skyline, skate, skip, skull, again, more, look, up, high, cloud, blue, dark, bright

Skeleton puzzle

Assemble a paper skeleton or a bone puzzle.

Words that come up: skeleton, skull, skin, skip, sketch, again, more, put, here, my turn, look, bones, head, done

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Skill share

Teach each other a skill in three steps. "Skill" every round.

Sketch it

Describe something while the other sketches it.