

Fronting Minimal Pairs

Sounds made at the back of the mouth get replaced by sounds made at the front.

RESOLVES

Velar fronting by 3;6

PAIRS

14

SOUNDS

k, g, ng, sh, ch (as "ts"), j (as "dz")

Fronting happens when a child makes a sound with the tip of the tongue that should be made with the back of the tongue. The most common version is velar fronting, where /k/ turns into /t/ and /g/ turns into /d/ - so "cookie" comes out as "tootie" and "go get it" becomes "doe det it." A second version, palatal fronting, moves SH and CH forward into S and TS, so "shoe" sounds like "Sue." Front sounds are simply easier to see and feel, which is why toddlers reach for them first.

Try this: For /k/ and /g/ the trick is getting the tongue to the back. Lie the child on their back, or tip the head back, so the tongue falls toward the throat; a yawn, a gargle or a pretend cough finds the spot. Then "kuh" with the mouth open wide, and only once that is easy, "key" and "tea" side by side.

/k/ (8 pairs)

TARGET	CHILD SAYS	TARGET	CHILD SAYS
key	> tea	back	> bat
cub	> tub	book	> boot
cap	> tap	peek	> Pete
cape	> tape	dock	> dot

/g/ (2 pairs)

TARGET	CHILD SAYS	TARGET	CHILD SAYS
mug	> mud	egg	> Ed

/sh/ (4 pairs)

TARGET	CHILD SAYS	TARGET	CHILD SAYS
shoe	> Sue	sheet	> seat
ship	> sip	shine	> sign

* not a real word - written the way a child would say it