

Reduplication Minimal Pairs

A syllable gets repeated instead of the word being produced in full.

RESOLVES

By 3;0

PAIRS

15

SOUNDS

Whole-word structure rather than individual sounds

Reduplication is one of the earliest word-shape patterns, and it is a sign that a child is trying to produce a two-syllable word before they can manage two different syllables. Rather than fail at the word, they repeat what they can already say. Total reduplication copies the whole syllable ("wawa"); partial reduplication keeps the vowel but varies the consonant ("wada").

Try this: Choose target words with two genuinely different, easy syllables and exaggerate the contrast - "bay-BEE," "puh-PEE." Once a child produces one true two-syllable word with different halves, the pattern usually unlocks quickly.

/w/ (3 pairs)

TARGET

water

window

CHILD SAYS

> wawa *

> wawa *

TARGET

wagon

CHILD SAYS

> wawa *

/b/ (4 pairs)

TARGET

bottle

bunny

CHILD SAYS

> baba *

> baba *

TARGET

button

baby

CHILD SAYS

> baba *

> bebe *

/k/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

cookie

CHILD SAYS

> COCO *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/bl/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

blanket

CHILD SAYS

> baba *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/d/ (1 pairs)

TARGET
doggy

CHILD SAYS
> dodo *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/n/ (1 pairs)

TARGET
banana

CHILD SAYS
> nana *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/y/ (1 pairs)

TARGET
yellow

CHILD SAYS
> yaya *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/m/ (2 pairs)

TARGET
monkey

CHILD SAYS
> mumu *

TARGET
mitten

CHILD SAYS
> mimi *

/p/ (1 pairs)

TARGET
apple

CHILD SAYS
> apap *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

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