

P Sound Word List

Press both lips together, build up a little air behind them, then pop them open. Nothing buzzes in the throat - /p/ is a quiet, breathy pop.

SOUND

/p/

TYPICAL AGE

By age 2-3

TYPE

Voiceless Bilabial stop

PRACTICE TIP

Hold a strip of tissue or a feather in front of the child's mouth. A good /p/ makes it flutter. If it barely moves, they may be saying /b/ instead.

Initial Position (115 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.

1 Syllable

52 words

pig	pull	pin	palm	pole
pan	paint	pink	page	pup
pen	pair	pipe	pail	purr
pot	pants	poke	patch	pad
pop	paw	pond	path	part
park	pea	porch	peak	put
peach	peas	post	pearl	pass
pear	peek	pouch	pest	point
pie	peel	pound	pier	
pool	pet	pour	pitch	
push	pick	purse	pod	

2 Syllables

54 words

pizza	puzzle	pepper	puddle	pigeon
puppy	pancake	picnic	puppet	pixie
pumpkin	panda	picture	palace	possum
purple	parade	pilot	paddle	poster
pencil	parent	pirate	panther	puma
penny	parrot	pitcher	patient	putty
paper	party	poem	peacock	parking
pillow	pasta	police	pebble	porridge
pocket	peanut	poodle	perfume	popping
pony	pedal	powder	petal	penguin
popcorn	people	pudding	pickle	

3 Syllables

8 words

piano	pineapple	pajamas	porcupine
pelican	pyramid	polka dot	potato

4 Syllables

1 words

peanut butter

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.

put, perhaps, pull, piece, paid, putting, picked, pulled, paying, paint, painting, pushed, puts, pushing, pays, painted, picks, pulls, pouring, poured, pushes, paints, pours

Medial Position (91 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.

2 Syllables

67 words

apple	airplane	mopping	upon	snapping
happy	cupcake	napping	upper	stopping
puppy	tiptoe	pepper	upset	upstairs
zipper	chipmunk	puppet	wiping	wrapper
paper	apart	rapid	chapter	popping
napkin	captain	ripple	dripping	hoping
open	copper	shopping	flipper	shampoo
copy	helping	sleeping	maple	grumpy
hippo	hopping	stepping	repair	diaper
super	jumping	supper	repeat	soapy
carpet	keeping	surprise	ripping	toothpaste
teapot	leopard	tapping	shepherd	
slipper	lipstick	topping	shipping	
popcorn	magpie	typing	skipping	

3 Syllables

20 words

popsicle	opossum	grasshopper	copycat	sandpaper
wallpaper	apartment	paperclip	hospital	September
computer	capital	stapler	newspaper	octopus
peppermint	carpenter	apricot	recipe	zookeeper

4 Syllables

4 words

caterpillar	helicopter	superhero	supermarket
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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.

happened, open, happen, supposed, happens, happening, suppose, especially, sleeping, upon, helping, upstairs, keeping, empty, hoping, grandpa, opened, opens, opening, stopping, dropping, jumping, sleepy, clapping, supposes

Final Position (96 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.

1 Syllable

80 words

cup	grape	drip	scoop	chirp
up	ship	drop	shop	clip
mop	keep	flap	sip	crisp
top	jump	flip	skip	group
map	help	gulp	slip	pup
cap	sharp	hip	snap	shrimp
soap	wipe	hoop	soup	snip
rope	shape	lamp	step	stoop
sheep	stamp	leap	stripe	strip
jeep	harp	loop	sweep	stump
tape	camp	nap	swipe	swamp
lip	cheap	pipe	tip	whoop
chip	clap	pump	trap	yelp
hop	creep	ramp	trip	cape
stop	crop	rip	wrap	chop
sleep	deep	ripe	zip	pop

2 Syllables

13 words

tulip	hilltop	rooftop	tiptop	asleep
gallop	jump rope	syrup	turnip	
hiccup	ketchup	teacup	workshop	

3 Syllables

3 words

envelope	lollipop	tabletop
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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.

up, help, stop, hope, sleep

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

Bubbles

Blow a few, then model the word as you dip the wand again - "pop", "more", "up". Say it for them before they have to say it themselves. Let them pop bubbles with a finger, an elbow, a toe.

Words that come up: pop, up, please, more, open, help, big, bubble, pop it, my turn, purple, puff, top, stop

Puppet snack time

Feed a puppet pretend food. Let the puppet be a picky eater who spits things out with a loud "PLEH!" Kids will feed it the same thing over and over just to hear it.

Words that come up: puppet, pizza, popcorn, apple, grape, pear, cup, spit, please, open, up, more, nope, yuck, soup

Pop-up and knock-down

Stack paper cups into a tower and knock them down with a beanbag. Count them up, then name what each cup is hiding underneath.

Words that come up: cup, up, top, tip, drop, oops, pile, help, push, jump, pick up, one more, my turn, stop

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Pizza topping debate

Argue for the perfect pizza. Every topping is a target, and so is the word "topping" itself. Take turns adding one and defending it.

Twenty questions: playground

Think of playground or park equipment. Slide, swing, hopscotch, jump rope, sandpit - the /p/ words come out in the guesses, not just the answers.

Spot the plan

Describe a plan for the weekend in three steps: first, next, last. Plans, trips, parties and practice are all high-/p/ topics.