Final Devoicing Minimal Pairs

A voiced consonant at the end of a word loses its voice.



RESOLVES	PAIRS	SOUNDS
By 3;0	10	b, d, g, v, z, j

The mirror image of prevocalic voicing. At the end of a word the voice box has to keep running a moment longer than feels natural, and children often shut it off early. The tongue and lips land in exactly the right place; only the buzz is missing, so "dog" comes out as "dock."

Try this: Stretch the ending and keep the voice on. Say "beddddd" and hold it. A hand on the throat works here too - the buzz should still be going when the word ends. Contrasting pairs like "bed" and "bet" side by side makes the target obvious.

/d/ (2 pairs)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS	TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **seed**	>	 seat	 **feed**	>	 feet

/g/ (4 pairs)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS	TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **bag**	>	 back	 **dog**	>	 dock
 **pig**	>	 pick	 **log**	>	 lock

/b/ (3 pairs)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS	TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **cab**	>	 cap	 **cub**	>	 cup
 **robe**	>	 rope			

/z/ (1 pair)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS	
 **eyes**	>		ice

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