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		CHILD SAYS	TARGET		CHILD SAYS
	**water**	> wawa *		**wagon**	> wawa *
	**window**	> wawa *			

/b/ (4 pairs)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS	TARGET		CHILD SAYS
	**bottle**	> baba *		**button**	> baba *
	**bunny**	> baba *		**baby**	> bebe *

/k/ (1 pair)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
	**cookie**	> coco *

/bl/ (1 pair)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 blanket	>	baba *

/d/ (1 pair)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 doggy	>	dodo *

/n/ (1 pair)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 banana	>	nana *

/y/ (1 pair)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 yellow	>	yaya *

/m/ (2 pairs)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 monkey	>	mumu *
 mitten	>	mimi *

/p/ (1 pair)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 apple	>	apap *

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

Picture Cards

Cut out the cards. Each one shows the whole word the child is aiming for, with what they might say instead.



water

may say: wawa



bottle

may say: baba



cookie

may say: coco



blanket

may say: baba



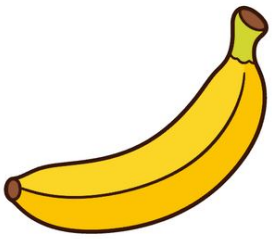
doggy

may say: dodo



bunny

may say: baba



banana

may say: nana



yellow

may say: yaya



button

may say: baba



monkey

may say: mumu



window

may say: wawa



mitten

may say: mimi



baby

may say: bebe



apple

may say: apap



wagon

may say: wawa