Weak Syllable Deletion Minimal Pairs



An unstressed syllable disappears from a longer word.

RESOLVES	PAIRS	SOUNDS
By 4;0	15	Any unstressed syllable in a multisyllabic word

English words have strong beats and weak beats. "BaNAna" has its stress in the middle, which leaves two quiet syllables around it - and quiet syllables are the ones children drop. The syllable that disappears is almost always an unstressed one, and most often it comes right before the stressed beat.

Try this: Clap or tap one beat for every syllable while you say the word slowly, then have the child copy the beats before they copy the word. Building from the end also helps: "na," then "nana," then "banana" - each turn adds one syllable to the front, so the part they can already say stays put.

/n/ (2 pairs)

TARGET	CHILD SAYS
banana	nana *
dinosaur	dinsaur *

/l/ (4 pairs)

TARGET	CHILD SAYS
elephant	efant *
telephone	tephone *
alligator	gator
helicopter	hicopter *

/k/ (1 pair)

TARGET	CHILD SAYS
computer	puter *

/p/ (1 pair)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **potato**	>	tato *

/t/ (3 pairs)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **tomato**	>	mato *
 **butterfly**	>	buhfly *

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **watermelon**	>	watmelon *

/m/ (1 pair)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **umbrella**	>	brella *

/sp/ (1 pair)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **spaghetti**	>	getti *

/r/ (2 pairs)

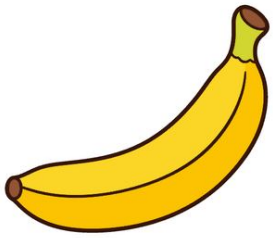
TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **giraffe**	>	raffe *

TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **refrigerator**	>	frigerator *

* 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.



banana

may say: nana



elephant

may say: efant



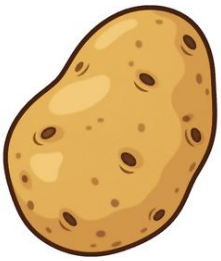
computer

may say: puter



telephone

may say: tephone



potato

may say: tato



tomato

may say: mato



umbrella

may say: brella



spaghetti

may say: getti



butterfly

may say: buhfly



dinosaur

may say: dinsaur



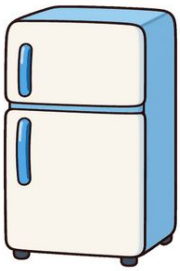
alligator

may say: gator



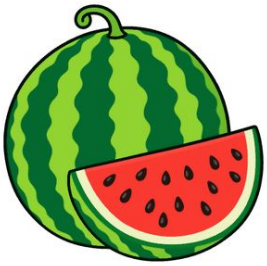
giraffe

may say: raffe



refrigerator

may say: frigerator



watermelon

may say: watmelon



helicopter

may say: hicopter