B Sound Word List

Lips together, voice turned on, then pop the lips apart. /b/ is the noisy twin of /p/ - the voice box hums the whole time.



SOUND	TYPICAL AGE	TYPE
/b/	By age 2-3	Voiced Bilabial stop

PRACTICE TIP

Have the child rest a hand on their throat. They should feel a buzz for /b/ and no buzz for /p/.

Initial Position (106 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


ball


bat


bed


big


book


box


bus


boy

These and 72 more pictured words are in the B Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

56 words

ball	bell	beak	bib	bull
bat	bowl	bean	bin	bump
bed	back	bear	bite	bun
big	bag	beard	boil	bush
book	bake	beat	bolt	buy
box	band	bee	bone	buzz
bus	bang	beef	boot	bulb
boy	bank	beet	booth	both
bike	barn	belt	born	
bird	bath	bench	boss	
boat	beach	bend	bounce	
bug	bead	best	bow	

2 Syllables

41 words

baby	bacon	beaver	bitter	burger
bubble	backpack	beehive	bonnet	burrow
butter	bagel	beetle	boring	balloons
bunny	balance	before	borrow	busy
balloon	bamboo	begin	bottle	bobcat
basket	baseball	behind	bottom	
bathtub	basement	bingo	bowling	
berry	bathrobe	birthday	bulldog	
button	batter	biscuit	bundle	

3 Syllables

9 words

banana	bandana	basketball	bumblebee	bananas
bakery	barbecue	bicycle	butterfly	

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.

by, because, before, believe, being, boy, baby, bit, between, behind, become, busy, building, birthday, bought, became, build, built, believed, buying, becomes, begins, believes, beside, builds

Medial Position (82 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


baby


robot


table


rabbit


ribbon


cabin


tuba


cowboy

These and 49 more pictured words are in the B Sound picture cards.

2 Syllables

63 words

baby	snowball	ember	maybe	tablet
robot	about	fabric	neighbor	tabby
table	above	garbage	nibble	toolbox
rabbit	absent	gerbil	number	wobble
ribbon	baboon	goblin	obey	yearbook
cabin	bobcat	harbor	oboe	zebra
tuba	bobsled	hobby	pebble	marbles
cowboy	cabbage	jukebox	ruby	notebook
rainbow	cable	keyboard	sailboat	goodbye
bubble	clubhouse	label	scrapbook	robin
elbow	cobweb	lifeboat	seabird	rubber
football	cowbell	lobster	stubborn	
marble	doorbell	mailbox	sunbeam	

3 Syllables

19 words

cucumber	alphabet	cheeseburger	somebody	strawberries
ladybug	September	hamburger	strawberry	blueberries
blueberry	wheelbarrow	hibernate	umbrella	remember
jelly bean	cabinet	probably	basketball	

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.

about, maybe, remember, baby, probably, everybody, somebody, nobody, anybody, absolutely, goodbye, above, remembered, remembers

Final Position (23 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.


cub


crib


tub


web


bib


cube


crab


knob

These and 8 more pictured words are in the B Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

19 words

cub	job	tube	knob	rub
crib	rib	crab	scrub	shrub
tub	bib	grab	blob	tab
web	cube	club	bulb	

2 Syllables

4 words

bathrobe	bathtub	doorknob	cobweb

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

Ball play

Roll, bounce and throw a ball back and forth. Name what you are doing every time - "my turn", "big bounce", "roll it back". Keep the ball moving: the repetition is what does the work.

Words that come up: ball, bounce, big, my ball, bye ball, back, boom, bump, grab, throw, roll, again, baby, bubble

Baby doll bath

Wash a doll in a tub of water. Name each body part as you scrub, then wrap the baby in a blanket for bed.

Words that come up: baby, bath, tub, bubble, back, belly, bib, blanket, bed, rub, bye bye, brush, bottle, towel

Box surprise

Hide small toys in a box or bag. Shake it, guess what is inside, then open it together. Refill it and do it again.

Words that come up: box, bag, book, bear, bug, ball, boat, bird, open, inside, look, what is it, big, grab

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Best and worst

Take turns naming the best and worst version of a category - best breakfast, worst chore, best birthday. "Best" and "birthday" are the freebies.

Would you rather

Would you rather be a bird or a bug? Ride a bike or a boat? Every prompt can be built from /b/ words, and answering brings them back through the pair.

Book talk

Describe a book or a movie without naming it. Character, beginning, problem, ending - the retell vocabulary carries plenty of /b/.