D Sound Word List

Same tongue position as /t/ - tip up behind the top teeth - but turn the voice on. Release with a quick, buzzy tap.



SOUND	TYPICAL AGE	TYPE
/d/	By age 2-3	Voiced Alveolar stop

PRACTICE TIP

Pair it with /t/ in minimal pairs (toe/dough, ten/den) so the child hears that the only difference is the voice.

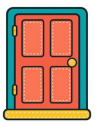
Initial Position (81 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


dog


duck


doll


door


dad


dish


desk


dance

These and 34 more pictured words are in the D Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

43 words

dog	deer	dawn	dill	down
duck	dime	day	dine	dude
doll	dirt	dear	dip	dull
door	dive	deck	dock	dump
dad	dust	deep	dodge	dune
dish	dam	den	doe	dusk
desk	damp	dent	done	dye
dance	dash	dice	dot	
dark	date	dig	dough	

2 Syllables

27 words

doctor	daddy	diamond	dolly	duckling
donut	danger	dinner	donkey	dugout
dolphin	defend	dirty	doodle	daughter
diaper	desert	disguise	doorbell	
daisy	design	dizzy	double	
dentist	dessert	dollar	dozen	

3 Syllables

9 words

dinosaur	daffodil	delicious	detective	discover
dominoes	decorate	deliver	diary	

4 Syllables

2 words

dandelion	dictionary

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.

do, did, does, different, daddy, dirty, dancing, downstairs, danced, dances

Medial Position (90 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


ladder


window


spider


shadow


medal


pudding


wedding


rider

These and 30 more pictured words are in the D Sound picture cards.

2 Syllables

73 words

ladder	reindeer	folder	reader	reading
window	middle	glider	riddle	lady
spider	buddy	handle	saddle	daddy
shadow	muddy	hidden	sadly	feeding
medal	adopt	hoodie	shoulder	birthday
cider	adult	ladle	sidewalk	riding
pudding	bedroom	laundry	soda	ready
wedding	body	model	sudden	louder
rider	bundle	noodle	thunder	hiding
cheddar	candle	order	today	hotdog
birdhouse	candy	outdoor	toddler	windy
garden	cardboard	paddle	udder	cloudy
under	cradle	powdered	wander	sledding
powder	feeder	puddle	wider	
meadow	fiddle	radish	wonder	

3 Syllables

16 words

radio	cider mill	melody	wedding cake
ladybug	holiday	rodeo	yesterday
video	idea	spider web	adventure
cheddar cheese	meadowlark	tornado	calendar

4 Syllables

1 word

daddy longlegs

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.

today, understand, already, under, everybody, somebody, nobody, children, anybody, daddy, wonderful, yesterday, needed, goodbye, building, birthday, middle, hiding, grandma, understood, grandpa, finding, sending, understands, loudly

Final Position (108 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.


bed


bird


red


road


food


hand


head


ride

These and 47 more pictured words are in the D Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

100 words

bed	sound	end	hood	sand
bird	slide	fade	kid	shade
red	add	field	land	shed
road	aid	find	lid	shield
food	band	fold	load	shred
hand	beard	found	loud	sold
head	bend	friend	mad	spread
ride	blade	glad	made	squid
side	blend	glide	maid	stand
cloud	blond	gold	mind	thread
bread	board	good	mound	tide
seed	braid	grade	nod	toad
cold	bride	grand	odd	told
sled	build	ground	paid	trade
wide	child	guard	pond	wand
sad	code	had	pound	weed
mud	cord	hard	pride	wild
crowd	dad	herd	proud	yard
card	did	hide	rod	wood
world	dude	hold	round	bad

2 Syllables

7 words

salad	lizard	aloud	mermaid
playground	blackboard	birdseed	

3 Syllables

1 word

pyramid

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.

and, did, would, had, could, need, should, find, told, around, made, wanted, happened, understand, called, used, hold, inside, afraid, stand, started, supposed, behind, tried, send, outside, ahead, scared, cold, loved

Flap contexts (48 words)

These words are spelled with a T, but in American English the T sounds like a D - "water" sounds like "wadder" and "butter" like "budder". This c


water


letter


city


waiter


sweater


bottle


butter


cattle

These and 10 more pictured words are in the D Sound picture cards.

2 Syllables

44 words

water	waiter	cutting	little	skater
letter	sweater	dirty	matter	spotted
better	beauty	eating	notice	tattle
city	biting	getting	pretty	turtle
motor	bottle	item	putting	waiting
pattern	butter	kettle	quarter	writer
shouting	cattle	kitty	rattle	heater
bottom	chatter	lettuce	scooter	brighter
attic	cheetah	litter	sitting	

3 Syllables

4 words

computer	vitamin	hospital	butterfly

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

Doggy play

Use a toy dog or a puppet. Feed it, walk it, put it to bed. Let it do something naughty, and tell it "down!" yourself - most children join in fast.

Words that come up: dog, doggy, down, dig, dinner, bed, good dog, bad dog, dish, do it, ride, hide, daddy, done

Digging box

Bury small toys in dry rice, sand or beans. Dig them out one at a time and name each find.

Words that come up: dig, down, deep, dirt, dump, found, hide, more, do it, inside, dinosaur, duck, doll, dime

Doors and drawers

Walk around the house opening and closing things. A play kitchen works just as well as a real one.

Words that come up: door, drawer, open, close, inside, dark, down, push, pull, did it, hide, behind, ready, done

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Design a day

Plan a perfect day hour by hour. Days of the week, "do," "did" and "done" all show up on their own.

Describe and draw

One person describes a picture, the other draws it without looking. Direction words are loaded with /d/: down, side, middle, under.

Debate the difference

Pick two similar things - dogs and cats, dinner and dessert - and argue which is better. "Difference" and "decide" come free.