N Sound Word List

Lift the tongue tip up behind the top front teeth, turn the voice on, and let the sound out through the nose. Lips stay open.



SOUND	TYPICAL AGE	TYPE
/n/	By age 2-3	Voiced Alveolar nasal

PRACTICE TIP

If /n/ comes out as /d/, the air is going out the mouth instead of the nose. Cue "keep your tongue up and hum."

Initial Position (81 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


nose


night


nine


neck


nest


nurse


nail


net

These and 23 more pictured words are in the N Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

43 words

no	net	news	noon	knit
nose	nut	newt	notch	knob
night	knee	next	note	knock
nine	knot	nice	now	gnat
name	nap	niece	nudge	gnome
neck	near	nip	kneel	knees
nest	neat	nod	knelt	nails
nurse	need	noise	knew	
nail	new	none	knight	

2 Syllables

33 words

noodle	nature	nibble	nothing	knapsack
notebook	nectar	nickname	notice	knuckle
nickel	neighbor	nightgown	nowhere	knitting
napkin	neither	nineteen	nugget	napping
necklace	neon	ninety	number	numbers
nanny	nephew	noisy	nutmeg	
narrow	never	nostril	nuzzle	

3 Syllables

5 words

newspaper	napkin ring	November	nursery	nutcracker

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.

no, not, know, now, need, nothing, name, next, knew, nobody, known, none, needed, knowing, nowhere, knocking, knocked, knocks

Medial Position (90 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.



dinner



penny



bunny



money



tuna



winner



pony



peanut

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

2 Syllables

64 words

dinner	honey	connect	kennel	sentence
penny	minute	danger	kindness	signal
bunny	onion	donut	lantern	tennis
money	painting	downstairs	laundry	thunder
tuna	tiny	engine	linen	tunnel
winner	spinach	evening	lonely	window
pony	any	finish	mansion	wonder
peanut	banner	funnel	minus	windy
planet	canal	gentle	ninety	doughnut
corner	candle	grownup	rainy	mountain
funny	candy	inner	runner	runners
canoe	canyon	invent	running	rainbow
sunny	chimney	journal	sandal	

3 Syllables

22 words

banana	container	lemon tree	ponytail	vanilla
dinosaur	continue	nanny goat	sunny day	lemonade
animal	dinner plate	onion ring	tiny bit	
another	granola	pineapple	uniform	
antenna	honeycomb	planet earth	universe	

4 Syllables

4 words

cinnamon roll	dandelion	peanut butter	winner circle

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.

only, any, into, anything, wanted, enough, another, understand, anyone, until, under, minute, inside, funny, anybody, finally, evening, wonderful, happening, finish, instead, certainly, unless, anywhere, finished, afternoon, listening, grandma, understood, dancing

Final Position (110 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.


sun


moon


pin


man


train


rain


spoon


green

These and 69 more pictured words are in the N Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

78 words

sun	been	grain	on	thin
moon	born	hen	pan	thorn
pin	brain	horn	pen	tin
man	bun	in	pine	town
train	chain	join	plan	turn
rain	clean	lawn	plane	twin
spoon	clown	lean	queen	van
green	coin	learn	sign	vine
can	cone	line	skin	when
phone	den	main	soon	win
bone	down	mane	spin	yarn
run	drain	mean	stain	yawn
crown	fan	men	stone	zone
chin	fin	mine	swan	nine
brown	fun	none	teen	
bean	gown	noon	ten	

2 Syllables

31 words

lion	again	cartoon	melon	wagon
balloon	apron	cotton	mitten	napkin
mountain	bacon	crayon	open	ocean
garden	begin	dragon	oven	
chicken	button	iron	ribbon	
cushion	cabin	kitten	robin	
lemon	captain	machine	suntan	

3 Syllables

1 word

alien

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.

in, on, one, when, an, again, someone, own, woman, everyone, run, alone, open, anyone, turn, soon, happen, children, between, taken, known, clean, none, seven, afternoon, broken, often, upon, gotten, eaten

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

No and yes game

Ask silly questions they will want to reject. "Is this a banana?" while holding a shoe. The "no" comes out with feeling.

Words that come up: no, nope, not, nine, new, nose, name, one, in, on, down, again, done, run

Nose and body parts

Point to noses, knees and chins on people, dolls and animals. Get it wrong on purpose.

Words that come up: nose, knee, chin, name, no, one, nine, ten, in, on, down, hand, run, again

Night night routine

Put toys to bed one at a time, tucking each one in and turning off the light.

Words that come up: night night, no, nap, name, nine, ten, down, in, on, done, again, moon, sun, one

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Name that thing

Describe something without naming it. "Name," "never," "nothing" and numbers all appear.

Never have I ever

A clean version: never have I ever eaten... "Never" every single round.

Number news

Talk about a day using only numbers - how many hours, how many minutes. Numbers are dense in /n/.