SK Blend Word List

Hold a long /s/ at the front of the mouth, then jump the back of the tongue up to the soft palate for /k/.



SOUND
/sk/

TYPICAL AGE
By age 5-7

TYPE
Voiceless Fricative + stop cluster

PRACTICE TIP

SK is a long distance for the tongue to travel - front to back. Slow it way down at first: sssss...kate.

SK is practiced here at the beginning and end of words; true medial SK clusters are rare.

Initial Position (18 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


sky


skate


skin


skip


ski


skirt


skunk


sketch

These and 6 more pictured words are in the SK Blend picture cards.

1 Syllable

13 words

sky	skip	skunk	skim	school
skate	ski	sketch	skit	
skin	skirt	skid	scoop	

2 Syllables

3 words

skateboard	skillet	skillful

3 Syllables

2 words

skydiver	skyscraper

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.

scared

Final Position (9 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.



desk



mask



tusk



whisk

All in the SK Blend picture cards.

1 Syllable

9 words

desk	task	disk	tusk	husk
mask	ask	dusk	whisk	

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

Skipping and hopping

Skip across the room, skip a rope, skip a stone.

Words that come up: skip, skipping, skate, sky, skin, again, more, go, fast, my turn, jump, stop, count, wow

Sky watching

Look at the sky and name what you see.

Words that come up: sky, skyline, skate, skip, skull, again, more, look, up, high, cloud, blue, dark, bright

Skeleton puzzle

Assemble a paper skeleton or a bone puzzle.

Words that come up: skeleton, skull, skin, skip, sketch, again, more, put, here, my turn, look, bones, head, done

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Skill share

Teach each other a skill in three steps. "Skill" every round.

Sketch it

Describe something while the other sketches it.