SP Blend Word List

Hold a long /s/, then close the lips and pop them open. Keep the air moving the whole time so there is no pause in the middle.



SOUND	TYPICAL AGE	TYPE
/sp/	By age 5-7	Voiceless Fricative + stop cluster

PRACTICE TIP

SP works at both ends of a word (spoon, wasp), which makes it a useful blend for practicing final clusters too.

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

Initial Position (23 words)

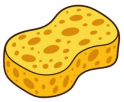
The sound is at the beginning of the word.


spoon


space


spill


spin


sponge


spark


spool


spade

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

1 Syllable

18 words

spoon	sport	speak	spade	sports
spot	spin	spend	speech	spray
space	sponge	spool	spike	
spill	spark	spy	spell	

2 Syllables

4 words

spider	special	spinach	sparkle

3 Syllables

1 word

spaghetti

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.

special, speaking, spoke, spill, spilled, spilling, spills

Final Position (4 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.

1 Syllable

4 words

wasp	crisp	clasp	gasp

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

Spoon and scoop play

Scoop rice, beans or water between bowls with spoons.

Words that come up: spoon, spill, spot, space, spin, again, more, scoop, pour, my turn, full, empty, oops, done

Spider web

Make a web from string and hide toy spiders in it.

Words that come up: spider, spin, spot, space, speak, again, more, hide, found, look, my turn, big, scary, where

Space rocket

Blast off to space with a toy rocket and count down.

Words that come up: space, spot, speed, spin, spaceship, again, more, up, go, blast off, my turn, fast, land, wow

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Spot the difference

Compare two similar pictures or scenes.

Special occasion

Describe a special day and why it mattered.