SW Blend Word List

Hold a long /s/ with the lips spread, then round them tightly for /w/ and glide into the vowel.



SOUND
/sw/

TYPICAL AGE
By age 5-7

TYPE
Voiceless Fricative + glide cluster

PRACTICE TIP

Exaggerate the lip change - spread for /s/, then a big round for /w/. The contrast makes the blend audible.

SW does not occur often in the middle or at the end of English words, so this page practices it at the beginning.

Initial Position (20 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


swim


swing


sweet


swan


sweep


switch


swamp


sweater

These and 4 more pictured words are in the SW Blend picture cards.

1 Syllable

14 words

swim	swan	swamp	swipe	sway
swing	sweep	swirl	swoop	swarm
sweet	switch	swift	swap	

2 Syllables

6 words

sweater	sweatshirt	swivel
swallow	sweatpants	swimsuit

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.

swimming

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

Swinging

Push a swing, or swing a toy on a string. Say "swing!" and "more!" yourself as you push - any signal to keep going counts, a look or a reach included.

Words that come up: swing, swinging, sweet, swap, swoop, again, more, push, high, my turn, stop, go, whee, wait

Swimming toys

Bath or water-table play with toys that swim.

Words that come up: swim, swimming, swish, swirl, splash, again, more, wet, under, my turn, go, fast, water, out

Candy store

A pretend candy store where they order and pay.

Words that come up: sweet, sweets, swap, sweater, swallow, more, please, want, again, my turn, thank you, how many, buy, yum

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Switch it up

Swap roles mid-conversation and continue.

Sweet or savory

Debate sweet versus savory snacks.