Voiced TH Sound Word List

Tongue tip between the teeth exactly like voiceless TH, but turn the voice on so the tongue tickles.



SOUND
/th/

TYPICAL AGE
By age 5

TYPE
Voiced Interdental fricative

PRACTICE TIP

Voiced TH shows up in the highest-frequency words in English - the, this, that, they. Fixing it changes how much of a child's speech is understood.

Initial Position (13 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.

1 Syllable

12 words

the	they	their	these
this	them	then	those
that	there	than	though

2 Syllables

1 word

themselves

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.

the, that, this, there, they, these, their, those, though, themselves, theirs

Medial Position (43 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


mother


father


brother


feather


bathing


clothesline


slither


grandmother

These and 4 more pictured words are in the Voiced TH Sound picture cards.

2 Syllables

24 words

mother	feather	bother	smoother	rhythm
father	either	gather	bathing	slither
brother	rather	southern	clothesline	soothing
other	leather	northern	lather	teething
weather	breathing	clothing	neither	

3 Syllables

18 words

together	fatherly	motherly	clothes hanger	other side
another	feathery	stepfather	feather bed	weather map
grandmother	gathering	stepmother	leather boot	
brotherly	grandfather	weathervane	mother duck	

4 Syllables

1 word

altogether

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.

another, together, brother, either, others, although

Final Position (8 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.

1 Syllable

7 words

bathe	smooth	clothe	teethe
breathe	with	soothe	

2 Syllables

1 word

sunbathe

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.

with

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

This or that

Hold up two things and offer a choice. Either answer gives you a "this" or a "that", and "neither" is a fine answer too.

Words that come up: this, that, these, those, the, them, they, there, mother, father, brother, other, another, with

Family photo book

Look through family photos and name who is who. Mother, father and brother are the highest-frequency voiced TH words a child owns.

Words that come up: mother, father, brother, grandmother, the, this, that, them, they, there, other, together, with

Feather and breath games

Blow a feather across a table. Take turns and talk about whose turn it is.

Words that come up: feather, weather, breathe, smooth, the, this, that, they, there, together, other, than, them

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Rather you than me

Play "would you rather" - "rather," "than," "either" and "neither" are all voiced TH and all unavoidable.

Weather report

Give a weather forecast for the week. "Weather," "whether," "the" and "there" are constant.

Then what happened

Retell an event in order. "Then," "they," "there," "this" and "that" carry every retell - which is why this sound matters so much.