

Say It Slow/Say It Fast

Level 1: Imitation

Goal: To improve your child's ability to "take words apart" (say it slowly) and put them "back together" (say it fast).

When: During playtime. 10 minutes
Adjust this time depending on your child's attention span.
Stop before she or he becomes frustrated or bored.

STEPS

1. Choose a two-syllable word puzzle (hot - dog, mon - key, air -plane). Show your child the whole picture and say the word. Have your child imitate the word.
2. Say, "I'm going to say this word slowly. I'm going to break it apart."
3. Separate the two pieces as you say the word again, this time slowly (e.g. "hot -- dog," pause between the "hot" and "dog"). Point to the first part of the picture as you say "hot" and the second part as you say "dog".
Be sure the picture is facing the child.
4. Ask your child to say it after you as you hold up a piece of the picture. When your child says the syllable, hand him or her that piece of the puzzle.
5. Practice saying the word "fast" (normally, "hotdog") and "slowly" (broken apart; i.e., "hot" -- "dog") as you take apart and put the puzzle together.
6. After your child can imitate one word this way, practice all the two-syllable words this way, one at a time.

Say It Slow/Say It Fast

Level 1: Production

Goal: To improve your child's ability to "take words apart" (say it slowly) and put them "back together" (say it fast).

When: During playtime, 10 minutes.
Adjust this time depending on your child's attention span.
Stop before she or he becomes frustrated or bored.

STEPS

1. Lay out the puzzle of a word that your child has already practiced with (e.g., "airplane") and say, "Can you say this word slowly?"
2. Take the puzzle apart and ask your child to say the word "broken apart" (slow; i.e., "air" -- "plane"). Give help as needed.
3. When your child is able to say the words "broken apart" without your help you are ready to try some of the following:
 - * Lay out three puzzles of two-syllable words that he or she has practiced. Mix up the pieces and ask your child to put the puzzles together and tell you the word normally and broken apart.
 - * Lay out three two-syllable word puzzles (put together) and have your child say one of the words slowly while you try to "guess" which one she or he is saying.
 - * Ask your child to put the words together backwards and make a "silly" word out of it (e.g., "monkey" becomes "key-mon," "hotdog" becomes "dog-hot").
 - * Introduce the three-syllable word picture puzzles (i.e., el - e - phant, tel - e - phone, kan - ga - roo, but - er - fly).

Do not write the words on the cards. Children are not reading the words. They are sounding out the words and listening.

Here are the words for the pictures, so that each word is two syllables, or had two parts.

Make your own cards using magazine pictures. Let your child say the name of each picture.

monkey	turtle
airplane	hotdog

penny	cookie
rabbit bunny	table

apple	zebra
igloo	tiger

sandwich	dolphin
pumpkin	sweater

carrot	mittens
baby	pencil







