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Syllable Shaping Homework

STEP 1: Steps to Achieving Verbal Imitation

Circle which step your child is currently in:

1. Imitates actions with objects (banging blocks together)
2. Imitates communicative gestures (waving, pointing, clapping, blowing kisses, hi/bye, signs)
3. Imitates nonverbal actions with face and mouth (raspberries, tongue out, pucker for kiss)
4. Imitates vocalizations (panting, fake cough, grunting, screeching)
5. Imitates exclamatory words (uh-oh, ow, oops, vroom, wee!)
6. Verbal routines (fills in words in common songs – “Ready, set, GO!”)
7. Imitates functional single words (approximations) – Or starting to use word approx.
8. Short phrases / sentences

STEP 2: Language Sample

Video a language sample of your child and write down 20 utterances:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____



STEP 3: Syllable Shapes Observed

Circle the syllable shapes you found in your child's speech (listed in developmental order):

V C CVCV CV V+V VC VCV CV1CV2 CVC C1V1C2V2

Consonant = C Vowel = V

STEP 4: Earliest Emerging Sounds

★ Remember to always use an early emerging sound - or one that your child already can say when you are building syllables. Using sounds that are too difficult will add another variable of complexity and improving the syllable shape is already hard enough!

Vowels + /m, p, b, h, d, n, k, g, w/

STEP 5: Be One Sound Ahead

Be **one sound ahead** of your child's speech at all times.

Look back at **STEP 2** and add **one sound** to each of your child's utterances. Use earliest emerging sounds in **STEP 4** and/or the sounds your child already uses. Also be mindful of the syllable shapes. Move their word targets towards the earliest syllable shapes &/or ones they already are producing.

Examples:

- Child: "Oh!" → You model: "Go!" or "O-puh" (open)
- Child: "M" → You model: "Me!" or "Mo" (more)
- Child: "Dada!" → You model: "Daddy!"
- Child: "Boo!" → You model: "Boom!"
- Child: "Uh!" → You model: "Up!"



Extra Tips!

Remember!! Breaking down the words that are high interest for your child – and slowly shaping them into their true form is the goal. We want to meet our children where they are – always! If you work at a level that is too difficult for your child – your child may shut down. If your child isn't responding – back up and make the task simpler - meaning drop a sound, or syllable or switch to a vowel instead of a consonant. Your child may be able to say some words at longer syllables shapes than others. Each word can be broken down into either an early emerging vowel sound (elongate that vowel) or consonant + vowel and can be built from there. Also on the off chance your child is obsessed with something that has an impossible name like “elephant” – you can pick an entirely different word to focus on like “eat” “go” and then model what the elephant is doing instead of naming him! Good luck!

Examples of high-interest words broken down at various shapes:

Word	Early	Build	Closer	Target
Open	oh	oh-puh	oh-peh	open
Mama	m	ma	-	mama
Outside	ow	ow-ee	out-ide	outside
Doggie	dah	dah-dee	-	doggie
Puppy	puh	puh puh	-	puppy
Eat	ee	ea-t	-	eat
Ball	buh-buh	bah	-	ball
Go	oh	doh	-	go
My turn	mah	mah-tuh	my-tun	my turn
Bubble	buh	buh-buh	buh-boh	bubble