

Dear Parents,

The following are a few of the strategies used during speech therapy to prompt correct articulation or to provide variety while practicing a picture page. You may have noticed some of these symbols on your child's pages in the home-school notebook. Here is how they are used! If you have any questions or would like more information on how you can use these strategies when working with your child at home please let me know.

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Thank you,
Christina Rakow

Sound Placement

To help your child remember where in the word he/she is practicing his/her target speech sound shapes are used to indicate the placement of a sound. The location of the star indicates where the target speech sound is located in the word.

For example: If the target sound is /m/

Initial /m/ as in "map" ★ ● ●

The star is located in the beginning spot to remind your child the sound is produced first.

Medial /m/ as in "hammer" ● ★ ●

The star is located in the middle spot to remind your child the sound is produced between other sounds.

Final /m/ as in "hamm" ● ● ★

The star is at the end to remind your child the sound is produced last.

S and S Blends

When practicing the /s/ or /s/ blend we want to keep the sound continual. You may see a line with the letter /s/ in front of it. We may trace the line with our finger while saying, "s-s-s-s" and then the rest of the word.

For example:

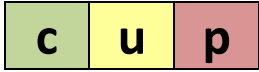
S _____ un

An alternative to this is to place your left arm out straight, place your right hand on your left shoulder, then say, "s-s-s-s" as your hand moves down the arm and when your right hand reaches the end of your arm say the rest of the word.

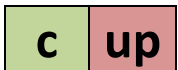
Breaking Away the Target Speech Sound with Colored Blocks/Squares

Colored blocks/squares may be used to divide a word so the complexity of the speech motor movement is broken down to an easier form.

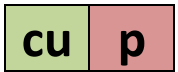
For example, the word “cup” can be segmented by saying each sound individually. Each colored square represents a speech sound.



Another way to segment is to break apart one sound from the rest of the word.



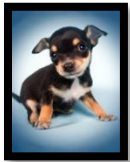
Or



Highlighted Words & Colored Shapes

When a page shows words highlighted in different colors ask your child to name the pictures by color.

For example: Ask your child to, “Name the pictures with green words.” When this is finished change the color.



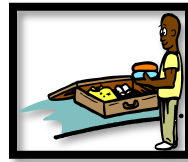
puppy



purse



pumpkin



pack

When there are colored shapes on the page, ask your child to name the pictures by color or by shape.

For example: Ask your child to, “Name the pictures with triangles beside the word”. Once he/she has named the pictures with a triangle beside them change the shape or ask them to name all the shapes that are red.



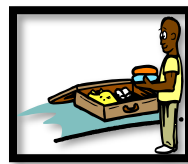
puppy ▲



purse ▲



pumpkin ♥



pack ♥