

She says every sound. The word still does not come.



Saying the sounds and reading the word are two different skills. The second one is melting those separate sounds into one smooth word, and it is taught, not caught. Here are the three moves, and the twenty words to practise them on.

MOVE 1

Stretch the sounds. No stops.

The tiny silence between sounds is where the word falls apart. Choose sounds you can hold, like m, s, f, a and n, and hold each one until the next one touches it.

NOT THIS

c. a. t. with full stops

THIS

mmaaat, all joined up

MOVE 2

Blend two, then add the last.

Three sounds at once is a lot to hold in your head. Join the first two into one chunk, let her hear that chunk, then add the final sound on the end.

NOT THIS

c, a, t as three parts

THIS

ca, then ca-t, then cat

MOVE 3

Slow once, then normal speed.

First pass slow, so every sound gets heard. Second pass at talking speed. That fast repeat is the moment the pieces snap into a word she owns.

NOT THIS

stay slow forever

THIS

slow once, then say it fast

The whole move, in order

- Stretch the sounds, no stops
- Blend two, then add the last
- Say it again at normal speed

Ten minutes at bedtime, one short word. That is the whole thing.

PRACTISE ON THESE

The 20 first words

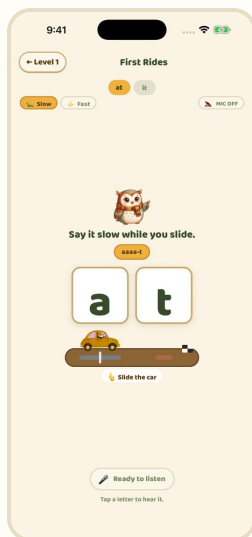
In order. Every one is built from sounds a beginner already has, and every one can be sounded out letter by letter, so there is nothing here she has to be told.

1 at	2 it	3 in	4 an	5 sat STRETCHY
6 sit STRETCHY	7 sip STRETCHY	8 pin	9 tap	10 pan
11 nap STRETCHY	12 pit	13 tip	14 tin	15 am
16 on	17 map STRETCHY	18 mat STRETCHY	19 man STRETCHY	20 cat

Start with the words marked stretchy. They begin with a sound you can hold and hum straight into the next one, which makes move 1 much easier to feel. The others begin with a quick sound that stops dead, so save them for once the melting is working.

How to know it clicked

- She says the word at talking speed, not sound by sound.
- She does not go back and re-sound it to check.
- She does it on a word she has never seen before.



THE PART A PRINTED PAGE CANNOT DO

This card cannot hear her. That is the whole problem.

This is the screen doing that job. She drags the car under the word and says it while she slides, at whatever speed she needs. Any letter can be tapped to hear it again. The app listens to the whole word and tells her the moment she lands it.

- It listens on the device. The audio never leaves the phone.
- It never melts the word for her, because that is the skill.
- Every word on this sheet is in its First level, in this order.



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