

# Supporting Sound Clusters

*Your child is working on their cluster sounds*

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Cluster words **begin**  
with a letter and  
another **consonant**;  
e.g.:

**S-clusters,**  
spoon, stairs,  
**L-Clusters,**  
plate, blow, clue  
**R-Clusters,**  
tree, prize, drive.

At the moment your  
child will be **missing**  
**out** one of the sounds  
in the cluster

## ACTIVITIES TO TRY AT HOME!

Here are some useful ideas to try with your child !

**1**

### LISTENING GAMES

Say one of the **words** and **ask** your child to **point** to the word or **place** a counter/small toy on the **correct picture**. Ask your child "does that word have "ssss" snake sound?"



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## 2

### SPEAKING GAMES!

- Use the same **minimal pairs board** (see next page) and take turns with your child to say a pair of words e.g. "school, cool".
- If your child **misses a sound, model the word** again whilst using the "s" **hand action** (drawing a "s" in the air").

Use the **magic finger technique**, which helps your child put the word together. This is done by using an index finger on one hand to represent the "ssss" and the fist of another hand to represent the rest of the word "pill". Move the index finger towards the fist whilst saying "sss". Once the index finger touches the other hand's fist, say the rest of the word "pill".

The following video will give you tips on S-clusters



## 3

### MAKE IT FUN

Use a **game to increase motivation** for your child. After your child has said all the words on the sheet, let them **have a turn** in a game e.g. (e.g. pop up pirate, snakes and ladders, building a tower, Mr potato head, colouring in a picture, putting sticker on a sheet etc.)

If your child is confident producing all the words, try **putting the words** into a **sentence** e.g. 'school' – "I went to school". Only listen for the first 2 sounds being correct. Don't worry about the other sounds in the sentence.

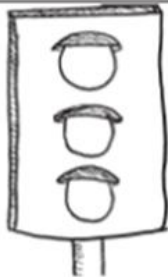



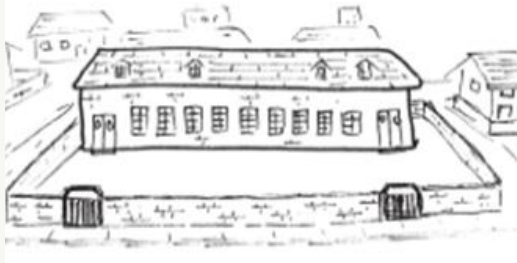



# Minimal Pair Boards

## HOW TO USE MINIMAL PAIRS

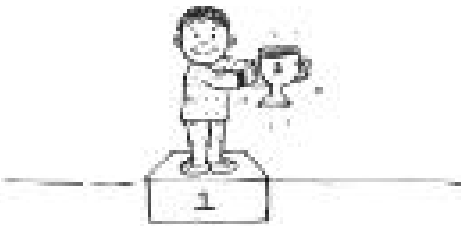

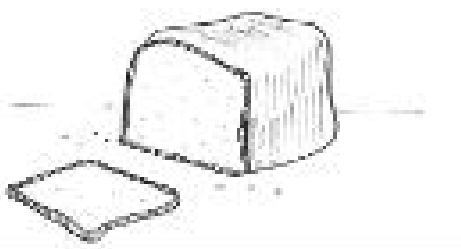



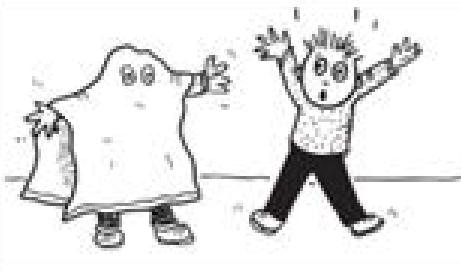
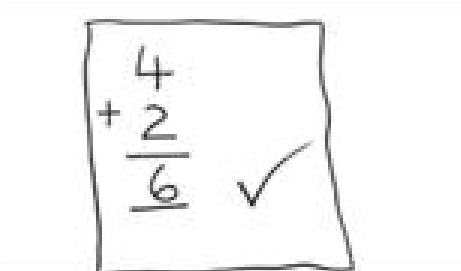
When working on Clusters we recommend using minimal pairs. Minimal pairs are two words (a pair) that are **identical in all sounds but one**. The **second word** in the pair is the **error** your child is making, the **first word** would be how to say the **word correctly**.

### S-CLUSTERS


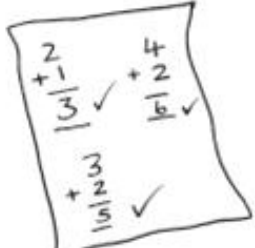
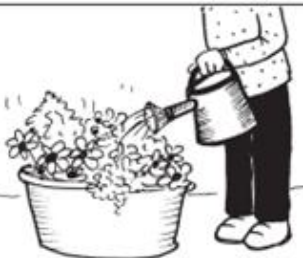

	
stop	top
	
snow	no
	
school	cool

# Minimal Pair Boards





## R-CLUSTERS

 <p>prize</p>	 <p>pies</p>
 <p>bread</p>	 <p>bed</p>
 <p>trap</p>	 <p>tap</p>
 <p>fright</p>	 <p>right</p>

# Minimal Pair Boards

	
bright	right
	
grow	row

## L-CLUSTERS

	
glue	goo
	
floor	four

